Kidnapped Bulacan food heiress is free

STORY ON PAGE A3

It's Sir Mick!

LONDON—Rolling Stone Mick Jagger, the aging rock 'n roll rebel renowned for his drug arrests and female conquests, finally got some satisfaction from Britain's establishment on Saturday when he

IT'S/ A4

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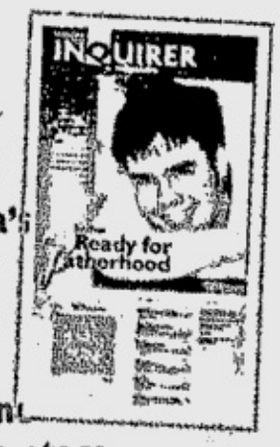

- Jao Mapa's ready to be a dad
- Paolo Valenciano loves the stage

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Ed-Loren in 2004 eyed

Teamup looms as Palace says Senate allies are staying put

By Cynthia D. Balana
and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

MALACAÑANG yesterday said it had been assured that its allies in the Senate were not jumping ship, but a source close to Sen. Loren Legarda said she was willing to be the running mate of opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara in 2004.

Legarda, who was earlier quoted as saying that she was open to a "working coalition" with the opposition, has personally assured President Macapagal-Arroyo that she was staying put in the ruling Lakas-NUCD, according to Gabriel Claudio, the President's legislative liaison officer.

"She (Legarda) herself has been in touch with us in Malacañang and her colleagues in the administration bloc to clarify that ... her statements were taken out of context," Claudio said.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said the report about Legarda's jumping ship was "greatly exaggerated."

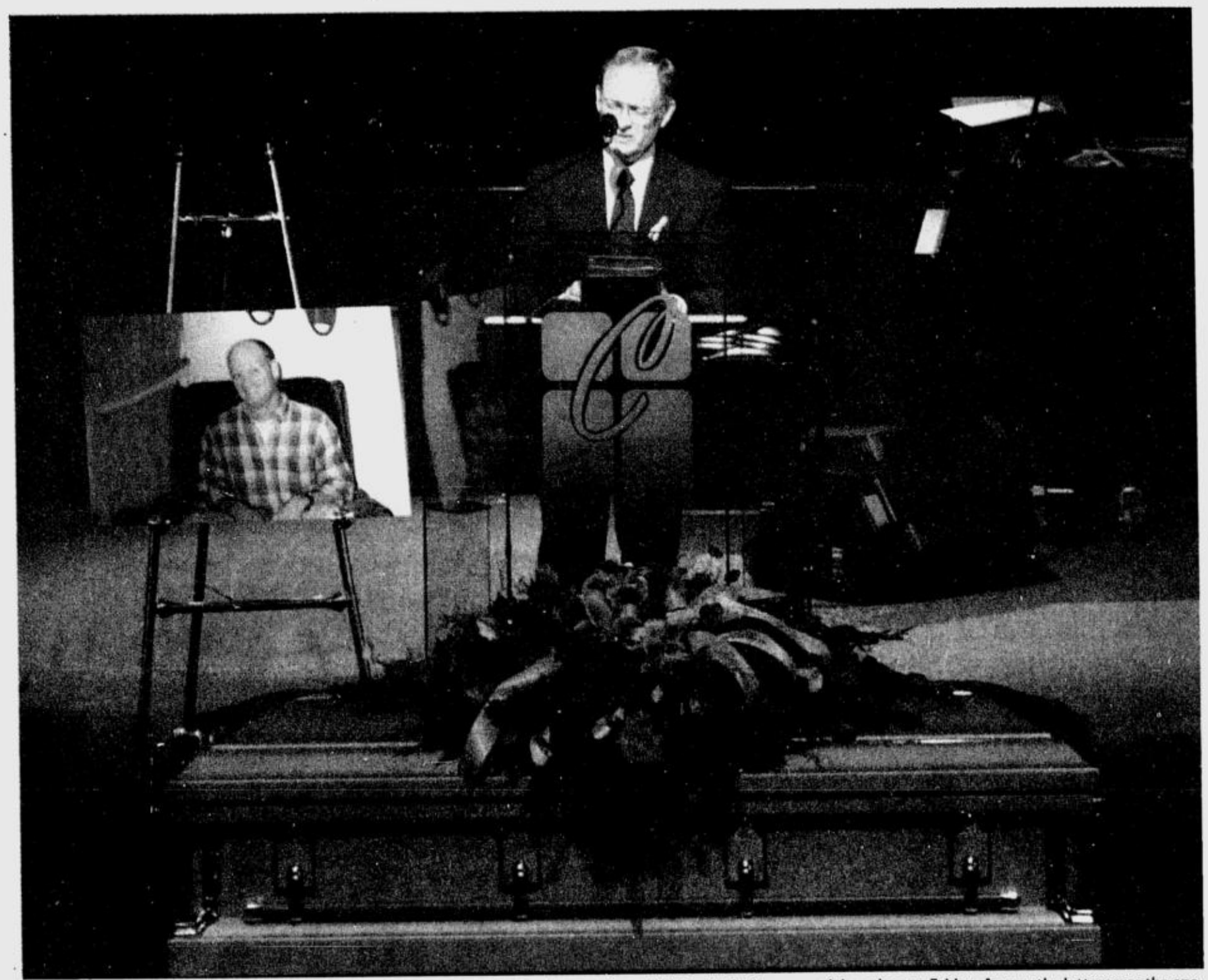
"She remains deeply loyal and firmly committed to the administration bloc in the Senate," Drilon said, adding that she had become his "soul mate."

But a highly placed source in the Senate told the INQUIRER that Legarda welcomed the idea of becoming Angara's running mate in 2004 if his party, the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), would choose him as its standard bearer and if his party mates would not oppose it.

Legarda earlier told the INQUIRER that she had always admired Angara's brilliance and coolness. She said she was convinced that Angara liked her, too, both as a person and as a colleague, because he had never criticized or openly opposed her.

But when asked to comment on the

ED-LOREN/ A20



REV. GALEN Hinshaw, uncle of Martin Burnham, reads the letters written by members of his family during memorial services on Friday. Among the letters was the one written by his 12-year-old daughter Mindy, who described her father as "the most generous person I have ever known." AFP

Fil-American celebrities pitch for RP war vets

By Jennie L. Ilustre
PDI Washington correspondent

WASHINGTON—The race for the grant of health care and pension benefits for 11,000 aging and ailing Filipino World War II veterans in the United States and 34,000 in the Philippines has been so bumpy that its supporters are now turning to celebrities for help.

The Washington-Hollywood connection has always been exploited by celebrities advocating various causes like environment protection and stem cell research. But it remains to be seen whether this connection will work for the veterans' cause following the US deficit due to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Still, that has not deterred Lou Diamond Phillips, star of "La Bamba" and

FIL-AMRERICAN/ A19

Burnham buried: 'Great man has fallen'

WICHITA, Kansas—The Central Christian Church was filled almost to capacity Friday as friends, family and the local community gathered for a funeral service for their "fallen brother," Martin Burnham.

The American missionary's widow Gracia, 43, sat in her wheelchair at the front pew with their three children and relatives. Among those present were Sen. Sam Brownback, former Sen. Bob Dole, Rep. Todd Tiahart, US Ambassador to the Philippines Francis Ricciardone and Philippine Ambassador to the United States Albert del Rosario.

A private burial was held later at Friends Cemetery in the Burnhams' hometown of Rose Hill southwest of Wichita.

At the funeral service, somber piano music played and a 10-minute video presentation traced the 42-year-old Burnham's life from baptism, through his wedding and his missionary work in the Philippines. A photograph of the slain man flanked by sprays of flowers formed the backdrop for his closed silver casket.

Gracia, who did not speak at the ceremony, bowed as Pastor Joe Wright led the audience in prayer. Gracia was wounded in the leg during the firefight June 7 between Philippine troops and the Abu Sayyaf bandit group in Zamboanga del Norte that left Burnham and Filipino nurse Edibora Yap dead.

"A great man has fallen," said the Rev. Oli Jacobsen, head of the New

GRACIA BURNHAM gives a statement to the media after the funeral services. AP

Tribes Mission to which the Burnhams belonged. "We do not just mourn a death to celebrate a life. He was stirring testimony to God's enduring grace. He left footprints for us all to follow in."

Burnham's uncle, the Rev. Galen Hinshaw, read letters from family including one written by the couple's 12-year-old daughter, Mindy.

"My dad was the most generous person I have ever known," Mindy wrote.

Ron Walker, of Derby, Kansas, said they attended the service "because we're Christians and we feel it's our part to recognize our fallen brother."

"His life touched so many people,"

BURNHAM/ A20

PADRE PIO'S portrait looms over the faithful outside the San Giovanni Rotondo Basilica in Foggia, where he spent most of his life. He will be canonized today. AP

SAINT, MIRACLE WORKER

Padre Pio canonized today

By June Keithley Castro
Contributor

ALL roads lead to Rome today for the elevation to sainthood of a humble friar known simply as Padre Pio, but recognized by millions as a saint and miracle worker during his lifetime.

The canonization of the saintly priest known for bearing the stigmata, or the wounds of Jesus Christ, is considered one of the most rapid in the history of the Church.

It is expected to be "the most momentous" since that of the hugely popular St. Therese of Lisieux, known as the Little Flower.

In 1968, Padre Pio's funeral was attended by 100,000 adoring followers.

His beatification in 1999 was record-setting, with more than 300,000 turning up for the event.

Italian authorities expect an even greater number of fervent pilgrims to flock to St. Peter's Square for the ceremony of canonization—the process by which the name of a dead person is placed in the Church's catalog of saints and commended to perpetual veneration and invocation.

The fever pitch of expectation already began last week at San Giovanni Rotondo, the monastery in Italy's southeast Apulia region where Padre Pio lived his priestly life and where he is buried.

Even before the announcement of the canonization date last year, almost all hotels and lodging houses had been fully booked.

The monks have given out more than 250,000 free tickets for the date since Feb. 26, when Pope John Paul II officially announced his decision to sanctify Padre Pio.

Since the square will have seating for only 50,000, "maxi-screens" have been set up to enable everyone to follow the proceedings.

Special celebrations are planned in

PADRE/ A20

Second FRONT PAGE

Ping's accounts held $1.2M, NBI confirms

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE DOLLAR accounts Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson had strongly denied existed held a combined total of $1.2 million (P60 million today) at one point.

This was disclosed yesterday by National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo G. Wycoco, who said the four accounts in two US banks were in the name of Lacson and his wife, Alice.

Quoting a US Federal Bureau of Investigation report, Wycoco told the INQUIRER the total represented the sum of all transactions allegedly made by the Lacsons involving their four accounts at the Bank of America and Wells Fargo Bank in California.

"This was based on the FBI report submitted to us by the US Attorney General's Office on June 3 under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty," Wycoco said.

He said of the four accounts, Alice Lacson owned two at the Bank of America, while the senator held one at Wells Fargo. The fourth was a joint account, Wycoco said, although he did not say at which bank.

Wycoco said the FBI report showed that from December 2000 to November 2001, the couple disbursed about $1.2 million in several transactions using all four accounts.

"Also in the same period, they received $700,000," Wycoco said.

He refused to reveal, however, how much money was left in the four accounts. He said it was sufficient to note that the accounts were worth $1.2 million at one point.

"And as of December 2001, they were still active," he said.

Wycoco said the records showed Alice issued three checks for $246,000, $50,000 and $5,000, all drawn from her accounts.

She had also issued a check for $100,000 for the purchase of a Toyota vehicle, Wycoco said.

Wycoco would not reveal other details in the report submitted by the FBI, pending the outcome of the review being conducted by the NBI and bank experts.

But, Wycoco said, the FBI report confirmed "once and for all" that Lacson had dollar accounts in the US.

Lacson had insisted all along he did not have bank accounts in America, after Armed Forces intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus accused him of stashing illegally obtained wealth in numerous banks abroad.

Later, Lacson admitted he had dollar accounts but insisted these had been closed.

Wycoco said the FBI report proved the senator had misdeclared his wealth in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities ranking public officials are required to submit.

He said for this the NBI was readying perjury and graft charges against Lacson.

Lacson had declared a net worth of only P1.7 million in 1996 and P19 million in 2001.

Lacson could also be charged with economic plunder if it is proven he deposited $1 million in an alleged account at the Bank of California, an NBI official said earlier.

Lacson has maintained the FBI report on his dollar accounts was "true and not true."

It was true, he said, that he had three or four accounts in the US, but it was not true that these were still active.

He has dared Wycoco to produce the FBI report.

Wycoco, meanwhile, took time to comment on a news report that quoted the daughter of slain actress Nida Blanca as complaining that the NBI was quick to act on the cases involving Lacson but slow to solve the murder of her mother.

Wycoco said the NBI was making headway in Lacson investigation because this came ahead of the Blanca murder.

"So it's not true that we're just zeroing in on Mr. Lacson," Wycoco said.

Blanca's daughter, Kay Torres, was reportedly "thinking out loud" during a visit with her lawyer, Harriet Demetriou, to the NBI office last Tuesday. The unsolved Nida Blanca case is seven months old.

LACSON

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Stay away from war zone, missionaries warned

MALACAÑANG has warned Christian missionary groups to stay away from the areas where a massive military manhunt for the Abu Sayyaf is going on, following the death of two hostages in a rescue operation last week.

The New Tribes' Mission (NTM), to which hostaged American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham belonged, is reportedly planning to send more volunteers to far-flung places, even Basilan.

"They should hold off their plans to send missionaries until we fully stabilize the situation," Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said yesterday.

Besides, Basilan residents might not welcome missionaries at this time because they are still "very angry," he said.

"There is an ongoing military operation in the area and the people's emotions are inflamed over what happened. They're very angry at the Abu Sayyaf. It's better if they calm down first," Afable said.

The Burnhams and 18 others were kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf on May 27, 2001 last year from a Palawan resort.

Some of the other hostages, including American Guillermo Sobero, were killed. The rest were freed reportedly after paying huge ransoms.

On June 7, Martin and Edibora Yap were killed and Gracia was wounded after a shootout in the jungles of Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte.

Yesterday, government troops in Lamitan, Basilan, distributed fliers from the US government offering a multimillion-dollar reward for five Abu Sayyaf leaders.

The pamphlets, printed by the Philippine military and written in two Muslim dialects, offered up to $5 million for information leading to the arrest of Khadaffy Janjalani, Abu Sabaya, Abu Solaiman, Isnilon Hapilon and Hamsiraji Sali.

Meanwhile, US troops showed off the progress of their infrastructure projects, including a disused airstrip, which they had renovated, allowing for the landing of a massive US C-130 cargo plane in Basilan earlier this week.

Maj. Richard Sater, US military spokesperson, said the renovation of the airstrip would allow the speedier re-supply of forces.

Naval and Marine engineers have also upgraded key roads, dug wells in some communities and set up a water desalination system in the isolated district of Dangcalan. ***Reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Manila; Julie S. Alipala, PDI Minda-nao Bureau; Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; and AFP***

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Meralco fudging figures, Transco official claims

MERALCO continues to deceive the public by claiming that its own independent power producers (IPPs) are more competitive than the National Power Corp.

The claim was based on an "unfair and inaccurate comparison," according to Asisclio Gonzaga, president of the National Transmission Co. (Transco). "Meralco is fudging the figures in a public relations ploy at the expense of the government," Gonzaga said.

Transco is the state-owned company that is handling the privatization of Napocor's power transmission facilities.

Gonzaga was referring to Meralco's highly publicized claim that it could buy power at P3.80 and P3.40 per kilowatt-hour, respectively, from Quezon Power and the Lopez-owned First Gas. Napocor's current selling rate is P4.20.

The Transco chief said P4.20 was PPA-adjusted, while P3.80 and P3.40 were based on optimum plant utilization of 85 percent. He said Napocor could reduce its rates by as much as P1 per kilowatt-hour if it could run its IPP plants at 80 percent, instead of the current 55 percent, capacity.

Under the terms of the IPP contracts, Napocor must pay for the difference, even if it is unable to use the power. It is estimated that the country's current power generation capacity is 25 percent more than is needed.

Gonzaga said that if Meralco's IPPs operated at 60 percent capacity, the adjusted rate would be more than P5 per kilowatt-hour.

"This kind of inaccurate comparison only confuses the public and media and does not help in resolving the horrendous PPA costs to the consumers," Gonzaga said. "Both Napocor and Meralco contributed to the excessive power capacity in Luzon. We should carry equitable shares of the PPA burden."

Palace confirms Cabinet revamp

A MAJOR Cabinet revamp is in the works for the second time in the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

This was confirmed yesterday by Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr., despite earlier denials by Palace officials.

While he did not name names, Afable said: "There is an ongoing government revamp. The Office of the President is reviewing all presidential appointments in the political, career and corporate levels."

The President would also consider if the official met his target as set in her State of the Nation Address last year, he said.

The revamp comes on the heels of the resignation of Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez and the appointment of three new officials—national police chief Leandro Mendoza to replace Alvarez, Benjamin Abalos as Comelec chair and Bayani Fernando as Metro Manila Development Authority chair.

Palace sources said the revamp should be completed before the President's second Sona on July 22.

The first Cabinet revamp took place in May last year after former Executive Secretary Rene de Villa resigned for health reasons.

On Friday, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo denied that Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas would be replaced by Presidential Adviser on Jobs Creation Cito Lorenzo and that Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez was being asked to resign.

Palace officials, however, said former Muntinlupa mayor and congressman Ignacio Bunye was being eyed as the next press secretary vice Rigoberto Tiglao, who is on a six-month fellowship in Japan.

One appointment that Malacañang did announce yesterday was the naming of former Cavite governor Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. to head the Video Regulatory Board, replacing Lualhati Buenafe. ***Dona Z. Pazzibugan***

Kidnapped heiress escapes

By TJ Burgonio

THE KIDNAPPED daughter of a wealthy Chinese-Pilipino family was reportedly able to break free from her abductors yesterday morning in the City of San Fernando, more than 24 hours after she was snatched in Valenzuela City on Thursday night.

Police said Dr. Charmaine Ong, 30, dermatologist-daughter of the owners of the CDO meat factory in BBB Marulas, Valenzuela, was able to escape from her kidnappers although reports remained sketchy.

Sources in the Chinese community, however, said Ong was released after her family paid ransom, initially thought to be P50 million.

This could not be confirmed, however, and Ong has reportedly refused to talk to police.

A police official, who asked not to be named, said Ong telephoned her family at around 10:30 a.m. yesterday to tell them she had escaped. She then went to the Our Lady of Sorrows church in the City of San Fernando to seek refuge.

It was there her family and policemen came to get her.

"We don't know yet how she managed to escape," the official said, noting the victim was in shock and refused to talk to law enforcers about her ordeal. Ong was not hurt.

Ong's family had earlier refused to cooperate with police and the Citizens' Action against Crime for fear she might be killed, CAAC spokesperson Teresita Ang-See had said in an interview.

"They feared the safety of the victim might be jeopardized," Ang-See said.

Three armed men seized Ong as she emerged from her clinic at the CDO compound in Marulas at around 7 p.m. Thursday. They shot her driver, Mateo Cahilig Jr., when he tried to fight them off, and disarmed CDO security guard Jaime Ontoy.

The suspects then shoved Ong and Ontoy into the doctor's Mitsubishi Galant and sped off. The car was found abandoned outside the London Tech University Hill Subdivision in Caloocan, with the handcuffed Ontoy inside.

Cahilig is recuperating at the Manila Central University hospital. ***With Tina Santos***

Metrobank depositors bare scam

LUCENA CITY—Several depositors at the local Metrobank branch here hold empty passbooks after a bank employee allegedly bled their accounts dry.

Estimating their total losses at P80 million, mostly in foreign currency and time deposits, the victims have organized themselves in protest. They are pointing to one Mely Chua-Tadiosa as the culprit.

Tadiosa stopped reporting for work middle of last month, and has reportedly fled to the United States.

The victims said that to avoid queueing, they usually entrusted their deposits to Tadiosa, who was in charge of dollar accounts and time deposits, and picked up the passbooks or certificates on their next visit.

But when Tadiosa disappeared last month, they said they were told that she was on leave. Then they were shown records that rendered their accounts empty because of heavy and successive withdrawals. The victims said their signatures had all been forged. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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It's Sir Mick!

MICK JAGGER: Knighthood after "growing old disgracefully"

From page A1

was awarded a knighthood.

"Old Rubber Lips," a boyhood hero of Prime Minister Tony Blair's, won his knighthood "for services to popular music," according to the list of honors published to mark Queen Elizabeth's official birthday.

"I was very pleased. I was also surprised because I must admit I wasn't expecting to get it," Jagger told Reuters Television.

"It is great to get an honor from your own country—although I have had honors from other countries. It also reflects really wonderfully on all the achievements of the Rolling Stones over the last 40 years."

Jagger joined nearly 1,000 people in the government-compiled honors list. Half of the great, good, famous and unknown recipients were nominated by members of the public.

Blair has put a premium on recognizing unsung heroes such as teachers, police and community leaders, but the latest list also boasted the regular smattering of stars from sports and the arts, as well as politicians and business leaders.

"He is one of the great rock stars of the 20th century," Blair's spokesperson said of the pouting 1960s idol.

Jagger and the Rolling Stones are revered for hits like "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction," "Brown Sugar," "Sympathy For The Devil" and "Jumpin' Jack Flash." But his knighthood, which was widely leaked in advance, has already attracted criticism.

Unlike some contemporaries, 58-year-old Jagger has defied the urge to grow old gracefully or branch out into charity work, saving his energy for rock music and paternity suits.

Jagger said the rest of the band was "really surprised" at news of his knighthood.

Rolling Stone biographer Philip Norman said that to reward the unreconstructed hedonist was "a disgrace and travesty" and clear proof of Blair's "pathetic attempts to win popularity by schmoozing pop musicians and soap opera stars."

"It's Sir Mick (and not for his services to women)," chortled The News of the World last Sunday.

Also winning knighthoods on Saturday were playwright Harold Pinter, who penned the brooding dramas "The Birthday Party" and "The Caretaker," and director Jonathan Miller whose recent Mafia version of Verdi's Rigoletto broke new ground for British opera.

Sir Bobby, too

Bobby Robson, who guided England to the World Cup soccer semifinals in Italy in 1990, was also given a knighthood.

England's performance under Robson remains the best since its 1966 World Cup triumph at Wembley.

England's rugby union manager Clive Woodward won a lesser award, Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the archaic language which still envelops the honors system.

Athlete Paula Radcliffe, who ran the second fastest time ever on her marathon debut in London in April, was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE).

And Britain's Olympic gold-winning curling team, who triumphed at the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, were all awarded MBEs.

Arguably the best known internationally, however, is the man who appears on the list as Michael Philip Jagger, singer and songwriter.

The award for the indefatigable rocker, who led the Rolling Stones to fame and fortune, was leaked last weekend.

Despite his age—he will be 59 on July 26—Jagger has perfected the art of growing old disgracefully with a string of flings with models, one of which resulted in a love child in his mid-50s.

Jagger, who did not appear at the queen's golden jubilee Buckingham Palace pop concert earlier this month, jokingly complained in a recent TV documentary about missing out on royal recognition.

AFP, Reuters

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For FRESHMAN Applicants:
TESTING DATES
At Ateneo, Loyola Heights Campus, Quezon City:
14 September 2002, Saturday (8:00–12:30 pm)
14 September 2002, Saturday (1:30–6:00 pm)
15 September 2002, Sunday (8:00–12:30 pm)
15 September 2002, Sunday (1:30–6:00 pm)
At all Provincial Testing Centers:
14 September 2002, Saturday
Issuance of Application and Scholarship Forms :
JUNE 17 to AUGUST 16, 2002
Deadline for Submission of Completed Freshman Application Forms and Registration for the ACET:
AUGUST 23, 2002, Friday

For TRANSFER Applicants:
(Applicants from provincial schools may register and take the ACET at the Provincial Testing Centers in Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Naga and Zamboanga.)
TESTING DATE
At Ateneo, Loyola Heights Campus, Quezon City:
19 January 2003, Sunday (8:00–12:30 pm)
Issuance of Application and Scholarship Forms :
JUNE 17 to AUGUST 16, 2002
Registration for the ACET for Transfer Applicants
DECEMBER 2–13, 2002
Deadline for Submission of Completed Application Forms for Transfer Applicants:
APRIL 18, 2003, Friday

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CABANATUAN: Nueva Ecija High School
CAGAYAN DE ORO: Xavier University
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COTABATO: Notre Dame University
DAGUPAN: Computronix College
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University of the Assumption, San Fernando
QUEZON: Maryhill College, Lucena City
SAN PABLO: Canossa College
SURIGAO: San Nicolas College, Surigao City
TACLOBAN: Holy Infant College
TAGBILARAN: Divine Word College of Tagbilaran
TARLAC: Don Bosco Technical Institute
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At 17, Mr. Cao Pek left Tarlac and went to Manila, where he submitted himself to different odd jobs to augment not only his daily needs, but also to send himself to school. Through sheer hardwork and determination, he was able to learned-the-ropes in the jungle setting of Manila.

Soon afterwards, his love for sports began to run in his blood. At one time, he represent the Filipino-Chinese Community in Track and Field at the 7th Chinese National Games held in Shanghai, China in 1948. Since then, Mr. Cao Pek was able to maintained his commitment to youth and sports development.

At 30 years old, Mr. Cao Pek, with his entrepreneurial spirit, put up the DEECO Electronics Manufacturing in February 2, 1948. Together with his wife, Elena Dy, they steered the company to become one of the largest manufacturers and suppliers of electronics and communication components in the country. In 1960, DEECO branched out to the sale of Home Appliances. Later on, in 1973, it opened its Telecommunications Division and to this date, over 80 Commercial Radio Stations as well as 12 Telephone Exchanges are operating with equipments supplied by DEECO.

In 1983, Mr. Cao Pek gave the full jurisdiction of the company to his sons and daughters and devoted his precious time to his socio-civic activities. He became the "Father" of the 1,000-student Cheng Kuang High School. He was also one of the Pillars in the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

His untimely death on June 29, 1992 in the hands of his kidnappers was a big loss not only in the business community but also to the education and sports community as well.

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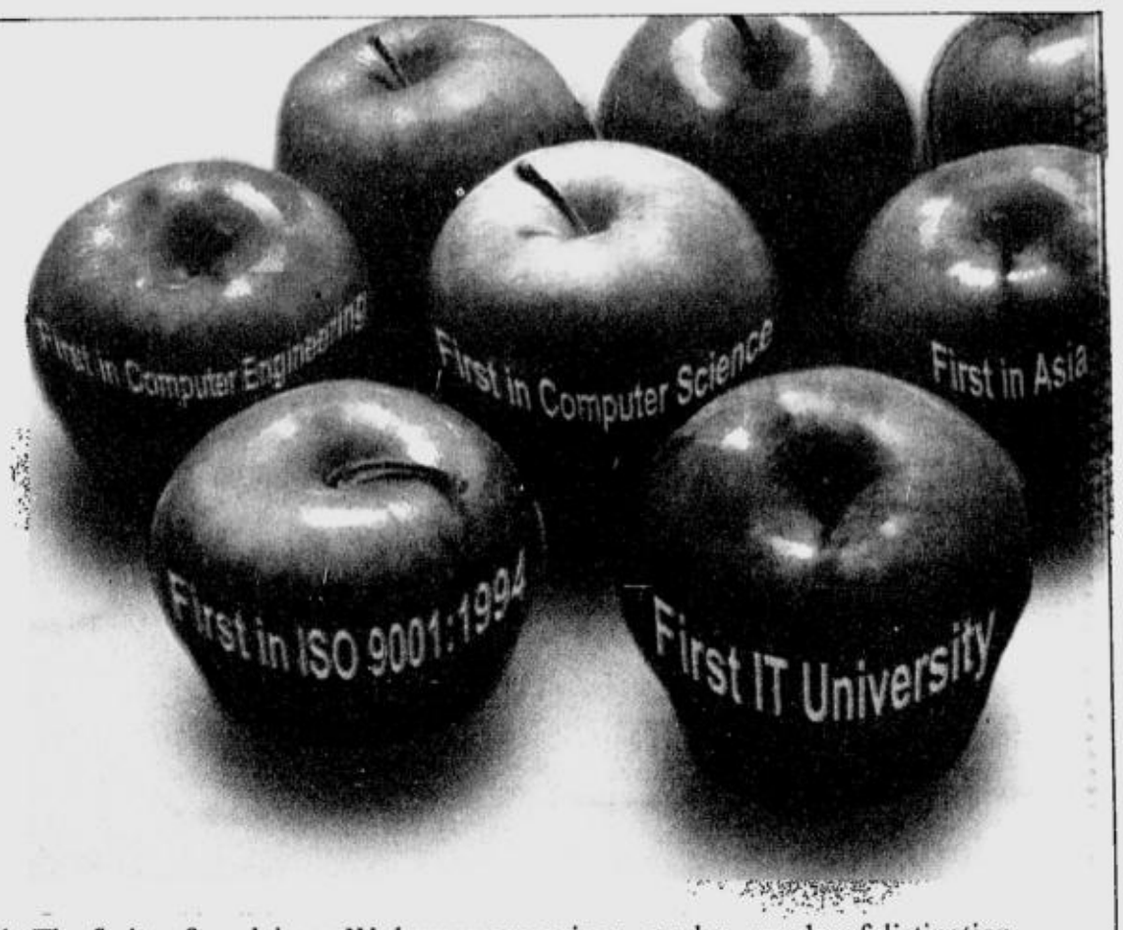

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Priest gives whole other meaning to Father's Day

By Armand N. Nocum

FR. ANTON C.T. Pascual has no children of his own, he swears, unlike some of his brethren, but he nevertheless feels responsible for putting food on the table for hundreds of thousands of kids in Metro Manila and Luzon.

"This day is my day, too," said Pascual, 42, of today's observance of Father's Day.

Unlike more mainstream priests who have parishes and look after the spiritual needs of their flock, Pascual has taken a different road.

For about seven years, he has been following the corporate route to provide for the material and social needs of the poor.

Right now, he's heavily involved in running cooperatives, including the National Capital Region-Union of Cooperatives (NCR-UC), which he chairs.

The group has about 2,000 cooperatives, which help about half-a-million sari-sari storeowners, ambulant vendors and other small entrepreneurs make a living.

He is also founding director of the Metro South Cooperative Bank, which is owned by about 300 cooperatives all over Luzon. About 200,000 families are dependent on the business cooperative.

The bank, a self-reliant grassroots organization, now has P200 million in resources. It was founded by former Presidential Management Staff head Vicky Garchitorena.

Thus is he able to put food on the tables of thousands of kids.

"My shift in focus is towards social development, as a sign of the times. That is charisma, a work of the spirit. The spirit goes where He wills," Pascual told the INQUIRER.

It helped too that he obtained a Masters in Development Management degree at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM).

He is also deputy director of Caritas Manila Inc., the charity and social arm of the Archdiocese of Manila. Caritas is chaired by Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin.

Pascual has indeed made a paradigm shift from his former ministry in the Charismatic movement, including El Shaddai, where he is spiritual director, and the Emmanuel Charismatic group based in Greenbelt, Makati.

"I see my fatherhood in the context of servant leadership. The father as a servant leader . . . priestly fatherhood, not biological fatherhood," Pascual says of his work in serving the poor.

"I'm a father in the sense that I lead by serving . . . I serve the favorites of God—the poor, the sick and the outcast. That is the central focus of Jesus Christ's mission," he said.

Pascual believes that helping the poor help themselves is "liberational."

"You liberate the poor from poverty by giving them dignity," he says. "You give them dignity by giving them jobs, work or (business) financing."

In his 15 years in the priesthood, he said he has no regrets over not choosing family life.

He views the calling as a "gift" and those called to it are expected to give it their all.

"If priests are not able to optimize the gift of the priesthood, the opportunity to do something good for God and the Church is wasted," he said, reflecting on the lives of colleagues who have lost their footing.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, June 16, 2002
11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Ex 19:2-6**

In those days, the Israelites came to the desert and camped in the wilderness of Sinai.

The Israelites camped there in front of the mountain, but Moses went up to God and Yahweh called to him from the mountain, saying, "This is what you are to say and to explain to the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I carried you on eagle's wings and brought you to myself. Now if you listen to me and keep my covenant, you shall be my very own possession among all the nations. For all the earth is mine, but you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

2nd Reading: **Rom 5:6-11**

Brothers and sisters, Christ died for us when we were still sinners and unable to do anything. Few would accept to die for an upright person; although, for a very good person, perhaps someone would dare to die. But see how God manifested his love for us: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us and we have become just through his blood. With much more reason now he will save us from any condemnation. Once enemies, we have been reconciled with God through the death of his Son; with much more reason now we may be saved through his life. Not only that; we feel secure in God because of Christ Jesus, our Lord, through whom we have been reconciled.

Gospel: **Mt 9:36—10:8**

When Jesus saw the crowds he was moved with pity, for they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the workers are only few. Ask the master of the harvest to send workers to gather his harvest."

Then he called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority over the unclean spirits to drive them out and to heal every disease and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first Simon, called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon, the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, the man who would betray him.

Jesus sent these twelve on mission with the instruction: "Do not visit pagan territory and do not enter a Samaritan town. Go instead to the lost sheep of the people of Israel. Go and proclaim this message. The kingdom of heaven is near. Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, cleanse the lepers, and drive out demons. You received this as a gift, so give it as a gift."

Commentary

In the 1970s I was in the mountains of Quezon Province, Philippines, visiting families, praying and sharing life with them. I would go from one house to another, stay wherever I was welcomed, and after a day or two, move on to the next mountain or valley.

I brought nothing with me except the pocket-sized New Testament I had in my pocket. It was there that I experienced God's care for his disciples through the generosity of the simple people who let me in to their homes and hearts. There were evenings that we talked about how God manifested him/herself in their lives, how God brought them to where they were. And there were days that as farmers plowed their field, I was with them, helping in the work and sowing the Word.

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Tutors decry ban on fees

By Ayan C. Mellejor
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Public elementary and high school teachers suffer the brunt of the government policy barring the collection of incidental fees at enrollment, saying the money ends up coming from their pockets.

The teachers described Education Secretary Raul Roco's order barring the collection of the fees as "deceptive."

They said it results in between 10 and 15 percent of their salaries going to pay for workbooks, cleaning materials and other school-related expenses the parents did not pay.

The teachers said they have to cover between P3,000 and P6,000 in unpaid fees at the end of the school year, otherwise they aren't issued clearances by school officials.

The lowest paid teacher gets P8,000 per month, they said.

That is why most tutors ask for "back pay" from parents who failed to make payments last year. The teachers said they are only able to collect, if at all, only between five and 10 percent of the amount they had spent the previous year.

Roco had warned the teachers they could go to prison if they persisted in collecting fees.

Gloria Arcenas, a teacher at the Magallanes Elementary School here, said when parents fail to pay for their children's books, the teachers have to shell out their own money to pay P110 for an English workbook, P45 for a science book, P45 for a mathematics workbook, or a total of P12,000 per class of 60 pupils.

Arcenas said pupils are assessed P10 per month for cleaning materials, with P500 of the total collection going to the janitor's salary.

Terry Abundo, president of the Public Elementary Teachers Association (Peta), said Roco does not know what is happening in the field.

LTO opens 'fastlane' for renewals

IN JUST five minutes, a driver's license can now be renewed and issued at a "fastlane center" opened yesterday by the Land Transportation Office at the Farmer's Plaza in Cubao.

This means one walks away with the plastic card that used to take up to 90 days to claim.

Located at the mall's third level, the fastlane license renewal center is a small kiosk equipped with a computer terminal, a digital camera and a machine that records one's electronic signature.

LTO license center head Eleanor Madrid said the center could process licenses for renewal, those expired for less than two years, and those that require new addresses on them.

But, she clarified, the five-minute countdown starts after the application form and all requirements—a clean drug test result, a medical certificate and the applicant's tax identification number—are submitted. ***Abigail L. Ho***

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Keynote Speech: Leadership—Cultural and Situational Diversity in Developed and Developing Countries by Dr. Moniem El Milligi, Organizational Consultant, USA
Forensic Psychological Evaluations Update by Dr. Ludwig Lowenstein, Ph.D., Allington Manor, Eastleigh, Hampshire, UK
Approaches to Developing Therapist Advanced Alliance Skills by Manuela H. Habicht, Ph.D., Toowoomba, Australia

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Symposiums on Wellness, Hypnotherapy, Forensic Psychology, Morality and Spirituality, Technology, Women and Justice

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Special Presentation by Dr. Honey Carandang on the Joys of Mentoring
Symposiums on Migration and Divorce, Healing the Healer, Innovative Therapies and Interventions, Filipino Loneliness and Mobility, School and Child Development, Gender Research

July 5:

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For more information contact the Local Organizer/Chairperson: **Dr. Naty Dayan at Dayan's Psychological Clinic, Suite 2103, V.V. Soliven Shopping Complex, Edsa, San Juan, Metro Manila. Email: bereps@pacific.net.ph Tel. Nos.: 721-7133; 724-5358 or visit the ICP Website: http://www.geocities.com/icpsych/convent.htm**

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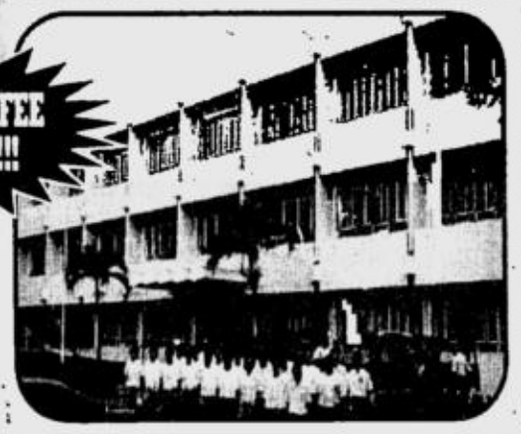

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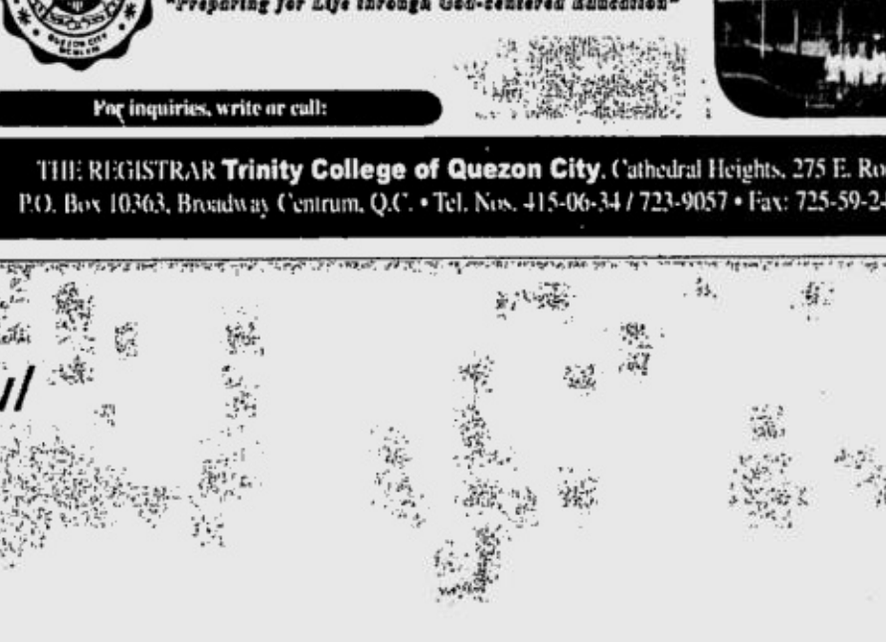

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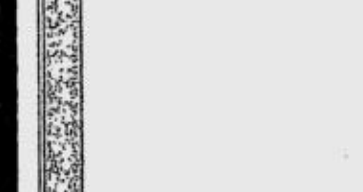

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Sydney tragedy

EDITORIAL

THE ARREST last Thursday of 21-year-old Sef Gonzales by Australian police comes a little over 11 months after his parents and only sister were found stabbed to death inside their house in an affluent suburb of Sydney. But if the Australian authorities were hoping to put the case behind them, the media coverage that followed the arrest quickly proved that assumption wrong.

In Australia, the laws governing identification of crime suspects are extremely strict. The police detective who announced the arrest, Geoff Leonard, did not name Sef. "A 21-year-old male person was arrested and brought to Chatswood police station and he has been charged in relation to the murders of the Gonzales family," Leonard merely told reporters. But the grisly details of the triple murder—the body of Sef's father Teddy was found in the foyer, that of his mother Loiva in the living room, and that of his 18-year-old sister Clodine in her upstairs bedroom, all knifed to death, with the two women's throats slit—have conspired to transform the crime into lurid tabloid fare. In many ways, therefore, the media have been a key actor in the ongoing soap opera.

The prime suspect himself alluded to the power of media to shape perception or amplify speculation. Only two weeks ago, in an interview with The Daily Telegraph, Gonzales said: "It's worse than being put behind bars—it's almost like I'm already being treated like a criminal...I think it's unfair [that people] expect you to act in a particular way, if you don't act that way they judge you. For example, I don't cry, and that's been interpreted in the wrong way."

His lawyer, Peter Kintominas, also made allusions to the perception tug-of-war. "Police have told all and sundry...for six to nine months that they were going to arrest him, that they were sure he was guilty and they were going to arrest him," he said. He also complained about the police's heavy-handed tactics. "Police were told on a number of occasions that if they wanted my client, he would present himself to the police station with his legal advisers. (But) he was arrested without notice this morning."

Media coverage can have a sometimes unperceived bias, as various news items describing the suspect's appearance at the court last Thursday showed. One report declared: "Showing no emotion, Gonzales sat alone in the dock as his lawyer...told the court his client would vigorously defend his name." Another Australian newspaper reported: "For most of the hearing Mr. Gonzales sat with his eyes closed as if in meditation, at times with his head bowed." Another report said: "He remained silent throughout the hearing."

There may be some of us who would notice the Rashomon-like quality of the reporting, but for someone who says he has been perceived as guilty because he barely shed tears at his family's funeral, a "factual" statement declaring he did not show any emotion when charges were formally brought to bear against him is a biased description.

Or consider this. One newspaper said that the sole representative of the Gonzales family present at the hearing, Joseph Claridades—the brother of Sef's mother—"refused to look at him" the entire time. Another newspaper merely said: "He sat with police throughout the hearing." Two ostensibly objective statements, but one already implies a moral judgment.

This is not to say that we believe Gonzales is innocent; we are not privy to the evidence and it is not for us to say so. But it is worth noting that the media may continue to play a role in determining—for a public avid for any detail—some of the key "facts" of the crime. It is a terrible role with which we cannot grow comfortable.

A good show

FOREIGN COMMENT

IT is fair to ask just what was accomplished during President (George W.) Bush's visit to Russia.

The nuclear arms reduction agreement—still to be ratified by the US Senate—is the equivalent of both parties agreeing to put their third and fourth shotguns in the attic, while keeping their Uzis in the form of tactical nuclear weapons. In addition, the United States continues to develop space age weapons and defense mechanisms.

All in all, Mr. Bush's trip was a plus for the United States, but there is no reason to let what was a good show cause the American people to lose sight of the realities of relations with President Vladimir Putin's Russia.

The Blade, Toledo, Ohio

Family ties

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

LAST month, I wrote that article about Powee, my first grandson who drowned in a swimming pool when he was only four. Shortly afterwards, Sen. Sergio Osmeña III sent me a handwritten letter recalling his own feelings under similar moving circumstances. I wish I could share his thoughts with you, for I was much touched by his own poignant recollections. He has, however, marked his letter "personal and confidential," and I must respect his wish.

I have not had the pleasure of meeting the senator, but I am sure he is a sensitive person who values family life highly. This is also evident in the Christmas cards he sends with a picture of him and his wife with their four sons. Many successful people do not have similar sentiments. I find this especially true of politicians, whose prior concern is for their constituents and their continued support. Family ties take a lower place with public servants whose eyes are on the next election.

It was distressing for me to hear a dear friend, a former student of mine from way back, explain why she had separated from her husband of many years. As a family man, he hardly had time for his wife and their children. He wasn't gallivanting, but he did not move around a lot because of his political activities. He usually couldn't even notify her of his trips, which she would later learn about only from friends or the newspapers. Finally exasperated, she called it quits and she's now less tense. But she's not resentful and will probably vote for him again.

Still on Powee, I received another letter, this time from Ruben T. David, who writes hello every now and then, recounting his own similar tragedy. It also involved his grandson, who also died when he was only four years old. The cause in this case was an epileptic fit that left the little boy brain dead and doomed to be a vegetable even if he survived. The specialists advised unplugging the life-retaining tubes, but his daughter and her husband just could not end their son's life. After a family session, the painful task was assigned to the boy's grandfather, who recalled it thus:

"But as I stood before my grandson's bed, his heart still performing well in the indicator above him. I turned coward and could not do what was mandated for me to do. I COULD NOT END THE LIFE OF MY ONLY GRANDSON.

"And then, out of the blue, a doctor passed by and noticed my predicament. He said without any emotion, 'There is no more hope, let me do it for you.' And he did. Five minutes later, my grandson's life flickered away. He was to have been 22 this year."

Another reader, Percival B. Padua, sent me this comforting thought: "If Powee is still the child that he was, let's hope he's cavorting with the angels in eternal bliss."

I relate these matters not out of a sense of despair but to underline the value of family ties. I believe many of the problems of our present society are traceable to the deterioration of the home as the happy haven of the entire family. Family ties are often taken for granted, like food on the table or light in the room. They are not manifested often enough except during celebrations or, sadly enough, when sad things happen.

I remember when as a young lawyer I had to call up a colleague about his son, whom he immediately started bad-mouthing for being a drug addict. The report I wanted to give him was that his son was dead from an overdose. And have you noticed the closing scene in every episode of TV's "The Practice"? In what is supposed to be a funny ending, the producer's name slams out of the television set an old woman is watching and throws her out of her rocking chair. Could that typify many Americans' feeling for their aged relatives?

That piece I wrote against the bill to retain or restore Philippine citizenship to former Filipinos got a strong rejoinder from another dear friend in defense of her family. Mrs. Consuelo D. Sison says her three sons and two daughters are now naturalized Australians and she resents my calling them apostates.

Apostasy is abandonment of one's belief in a faith or principle. It becomes especially serious when made under oath, as when a citizen renounces his allegiance to his former country in favor of his adopted country. It is the Drilon bill that trivializes the oath as not taken in good faith and in effect makes the expatriated Filipino "mentally dishonest." Not I. And I repeat, one does not have to forsake his roots just so he can earn more money abroad or even to escape political persecution at home.

On a lighter note, my wife and I want to thank our friends and relatives who conspired with our six children in giving us the most wonderful surprise party on the occasion of our golden wedding anniversary on May 3. Our children had earlier suggested that we celebrate it with a quiet formal dinner among ourselves only and that we should all dress up for a family photo session. We gathered at the appointed time, but when I remarked that the dining room was not big enough, they suggested that we move to another room.

The door opened to happy applause from all of 180 guests who were in on the deception. Everyone had kept the secret from us. Sally had to sit down and weep a little, but for quiet joy. I was completely bewildered. It was the best proof of how our children love us and the most priceless of gifts we will deeply cherish for the rest of our lives. And they paid for it too.

Passion and compassion

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THERE is a story about three men who were drunk and trying to catch the train, which was already pulling out of the station. The train conductor saw the three running after the train, so from the back of the train, he pulls in the first one, then the second one. Finally he tries to pull the third, but fails. Wanting to commiserate with the man left behind, the train stationmaster says "Sorry my friend that you were left behind." And the guy says, "Yah, I'm sorry, too, but more so for my two companions. You see, they were here just to see me off!"

* * *

As we travel through life, it can happen that that which is most important is the one that is left behind or forgotten. In the Gospel today (Mt. 9, 36-10,8) Jesus reminds His disciples of what is really important in their mission: passion and compassion. They were to be disciples with a passion to spread the kingdom and to carry out their mission to cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers and proclaim the Good News. But they were to do so with compassion, especially to the lost sheep. They were to be disciples with passion (not just for fashion) but more so disciples with a mission filled with compassion.

* * *

I remember listening once to the confession of an old man who was crying like a child and pouring out in his heart. His greatest grief was that in his sunset years, his children were not united with him or with each other. All his years of hard work and accumulated wealth had backfired on him. His six children were jealous and envious of each other and were not talking to each other. His heaviest grief was the thought that his children "loved" him only because of the properties and inheritance he would leave behind. And that they were just waiting for him to die.

This is a clear case of a father who had a passion for work (and other passions besides) but who had forgotten compassion for his children. What indeed would it profit a father if he gains the whole world and in the end loses the respect and love of his family. Fathers, especially on Fathers' Day, take note.

* * *

Sad to say there are fathers who remain little boys and never grow up. They continue to hold on to their toys and joys. They continue to hold center stage, that's why their children remain in the background and never have a chance to shine.

Fathers, do not block the way for your children. Show them the way. Lead them and make a way for them.

* * *

I was at the funeral of two people who lived their lives showing the way for others. The first one was Jeremias "Jerry" Montemayor who blazed the trail of social justice in the 1960s and the 1970s. He was an inspiration for us young people then (and even now) with his passion and compassion for the poor and the marginalized especially the farmers. The other person who showed the way for others was the columnist Art Borjal who, though physically challenged, was able to shine as a journalist and helped so many people. These are two people who did not only have passion but had compassion as well, and that's what made them great.

* * *

The Gospel today gives us the list of the 12 disciples. I would like to add two more: Martin Burnham and Ediborah Yap. These were two modern disciples of Christ who spent their lives serving others. They were missionaries with a passion for the kingdom of God and with compassion for God's people. They literally went to the lost sheep and gave without cost. Well, not really. It cost them their very lives.

May the light of Martin and Ediborah shine on our country that is so full of politicians and government officials who are full of passion for money, power and position.

* * *

Padre Pio will be canonized in Rome this June. This simple priest reminds us that it is possible to live a life of passion for God and a life of compassion for His people. Let Padre Pio remind us, his brother priests, of simplicity, humility, poverty and dedication once again. Finally, let Padre Pio remind all of us that there are and there will always be good Catholic priests, and that the Church will survive.

* * *

The laborers are few! Calling all men and women who are willing to live a life of love and service as priests, religious and missionaries. Be open. Don't close the door to God's invitation. We need men and women who have the 4H's (Good health, Good head, Good hands, Good health) plus good humor, and have a passion for life and compassion for people. Ask the Blessed Mother to show your vocation and to help you persevere in your vocation.

* * *

Did you hear of the story about a father who died and was praised for his good traits during the funeral Mass? Feeling uncomfortable, the widow whispered to the son, "Go and look in the coffin. Check if it's your Dad!"

Happy Fathers' Day!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Father, help me live a life so full of passion for You and so full of compassion for others. Amen.

The bad news first

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

GOOD news is hard to come by these days, either on the international or local scene.

Internationally we see the Israeli and the Palestinians building up a reservoir of mutual hatred which could last for centuries, millions in southern Africa facing starvation, the Indians and the Pakistani threatening mutual nuclear annihilation, and the United States making it ever clearer that its own interests—and George Bush's interpretation of its interests—come before everything else. The Church, meanwhile, has lost much of its potential for moral leadership just when it is most needed, its image muddied by the sexual sins of some of its priests and the irresponsibility of some of its leaders, while the once powerful voice of a great Pope is reduced by illness to hardly audible mumbling.

Locally the scene is no more encouraging. The nation has been outraged by the bungling by the Pasay City police of the hostage crisis two weeks ago, and deeply saddened by the deaths of Martin Burnham and Ediborah Yap last week. Citizens are outraged even more by the irresponsibility of its chosen legislators in stopping the legislative mill and allowing urgent bills to go unvoted upon—all, it seems, to protect one senator from a damning committee report while he, piously proclaiming his innocence, uses every trick in the books to evade trial on other charges.

The antics taking place in Congress are only a continuation of a pattern that goes back at least to the martial law years—a pattern which affirms that might is right, that one who holds it can do as he or she pleases and indeed is expected to use it to advance his or her own interests, that values are useful only to score debating points in the struggle for power. Ferdinand Marcos believed that with total power he could do as he wished, and did so until a murder on the tarmac in 1983 and a stolen election n 1986 awoke the dormant values of a people. Joseph Estrada believed equally in the pattern; he and his cronies lived it with abandon until the Singson revelations and a fateful vote in the Senate showed how far they had overstepped the bounds of decency, and he was driven from office.

Yet the pattern continues, and we see it not only in the ability of the Marcos and Estrada families to manipulate the legal system. It appears wherever there is power, from that of the petty bureaucrat with the open drawer to the driver of a luxury car scattering pedestrians like chickens.

And this predominance of power over values, I would argue, is one reason why many people have lost hope in the future of the nation. We see this loss in the faces of Filipinos selling their homes and leaving to seek a better life for their children in the United States or Australia, and who can blame them? And it has now reached the lower classes, at least in Metro Manila, as revealed in data supplied by Pulse Asia. In every one of 12 survey rounds between May 1999 and April 2002 more "E" class respondents reported that their personal condition was "worse now" than 12 months before, than reported that it was "better now"; in the latest round this was at a ratio of more than three to one, 47 percent to 13 percent. But what is more worrisome is the change in expectations: in the first nine rounds, those who expected their personal situations to improve outnumbered those who expected it to get worse, often by a ratio of three to one; but in the three rounds starting in October 2001, the "pessimists" outnumber the "optimists."

Yes, good news is hard to come by these days. Yet one does find it if one looks, even in the midst of tragedy. The selfless dedication of nurse Ediborah Yap through a year of captivity in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf is one shining example; her case is even more impressive if, as has been reported, she had a chance to escape but passed it up in order to assist the Burnham couple. Her commitment to service, and the Burnhams' unwavering faith in God, remind us that power is not everything.

And these reminders come not from the high and mighty, certainly not from the Philippine Senate, but from little and otherwise nameless people. Here I recall again Chesterton's "Ballad of the White Horse," set in ninth-century England. The country has been overrun by Viking invaders, who have burned and plundered the land, and defeated King Alfred and his army. The king himself is in hiding, near despair, when he sees a vision of the Virgin. Her words are enigmatic:

I bring you nothing for your hope.
Nothing for your desire.
Save that the night grows darker yet.
And the sea rises higher.

Alfred takes these words as a promise, rallies his troops once more and goes to meet the Northmen. But one by one his leaders die in battle, and again the army is routed. But now it is the ordinary folk, the farmers and woodsmen turned foot-soldiers, who group around Arthur for one last suicidal charge, which breaks the Vikings' line and saves England.

So in the end it may be the faith and courage of little people, like Ediborah Yap and the Burnhams, which will save this nation and the world.

How rich was his journey

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HIS life had come full circle. After a series of seminars among farmers' groups in Zambales, Jeremias Montemayor, "Dean" Montemayor to many of his younger colleagues, passed by Apalit, Pampanga for another training session. As was his wont, he chose to spend the night in the home of a farmer and it was in this farmer's home that his friends discovered his lifeless body.

Jeremias Montemayor, agrarian reform champion and pioneer, community organizer, faithful lay leader, educator and father of 10, passed away at the age of 79.

Even after death, remarked his wife Bing, Montemayor was still giving of himself. His funeral had to be delayed for a few days when farmers in Davao, where the Federation of Free Farmers made major inroads in rural organizing, requested that they be given the chance to bid him farewell and requested that his remains be brought there for viewing. He will be laid to rest today.

He was born the fifth of 11 children of Leon Montemayor and Amparo Ungson of Alaminos, Pangasinan. The Montemayors were among the more prominent families of the town, deriving much of their income from the proceeds of farmlands inherited from their own parents. In addition, Leon Montemayor gave vent to his own adventurous and entrepreneurial interests by setting up a bakery, establishing a lumber business and even prospecting for mining claims in the mountains surrounding the town.

One incident, writes Montemayor in his unfinished autobiography, may have subconsciously influenced the direction his life took. During the "dapil," a communal ritual whereby harvested sugarcane is crushed and the juices boiled to make molasses, he recalled, "my grandmother suddenly became mad at one of the tenants. She seized a round bamboo stick and struck the tenant on the knee. Immediately, the tenant hobbled in pain across the yard and silently removed himself out of the sight of all the people present."

He was just four years old at the time, wrote Montemayor, so he was hardly affected by the incident. "But it came back to my mind and recurred in my memory now and then as I grew older." Little did he know that the making of a champion of the rights of the rural poor was being born in the person of a "serious and studious" scion of a land-owning family.

* * *

WHEN he was 17, Montemayor says he had a sudden and unexpected insight that the priestly life was not for him. Thus he told his tearful mother that he was leaving the seminary, and opted instead to pursue his studies at the Ateneo. He clinched his AB summa cum laude in 1948, and his law degree magna cum laude in 1952.

Shortly after graduation from college, Montemayor wed the former Nieves "Bing" Quimzon, with whom he had 10 children, the oldest of whom is Leonie, now agriculture secretary and a former congressman. Late in life, they discovered a baby boy abandoned at their doorstep and raised him as their own.

From the beginning, says Montemayor in his account of his life, his involvement in social concerns and pursuit of justice was rooted in his deep catholic faith. What he calls his "unordained ministry," said Montemayor, sprang from his study of not just the land problem and the issue of ownership, but "to the even deeper and broader consideration of God's purpose in creating the world."

But he was not one to keep his beliefs separate from the way he lived his wife. To his widowed mother's surprise, he decided to waive his share of inheritance, which consisted largely of landholdings. When he tried convincing his mother to give their lands to their tenants, she retorted: "Do not forget that were it not for those lands, you would not have finished law."

Reflects Montemayor: "I believe that to this day, hardly any of my relatives and townmates have understood what happened to me in regard to my thinking and attitude concerning our land."

With support from progressive Jesuits who had also been involved in labor organizing, Montemayor and a few contemporaries organized the Federation of Free Farmers in 1953 in San Fernando, Pampanga. With the Huk rebellion crushed, farmers around the country flocked for assistance and support to an organization that worked to secure their land rights but eschewed the use of armed violence and based its ideology on Christian teachings. Later, the FFF leaders would also found the Federation of Free Farmers Cooperatives Inc. or FFFCI.

* * *

EVEN as he went around the country with other FFF leaders training farmer-leaders and negotiating with both national and local government officials, Montemayor sought to support his growing family by carrying a full teaching load and even serving as Dean of the Ateneo College of Law.

So deep and heartfelt were his social and Christian commitments that some of his children, including Leonie, would likewise pursue careers within the agrarian reform movement. This despite their own exemplary academic records which they could have parlayed into much more materially rewarding pursuits.

In recognition of his faithful service to the church, Montemayor was named a "Consultor" and later member of the Vatican Concillum of the Laity (now the Pontifical Council of the Laity) from 1968 to 1975. He counted Pope John Paul II as a personal friend, having met him when he was still Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Poland.

"How Rich Is My Journey!" is the title Montemayor gave his unfinished autobiography, 15 chapters of which he had completed before his death. His life, however filled with contradiction, was itself of a piece, a full circle of service and Christian commitment, social service and fidelity to the God he had loved all his life.

My father's letter to his father

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

DEFENSELESS before death, but still armed with the logical and moral clarity of one who had studied the law all his life, my ailing father wrote his long dead father a letter.

He was doing it, he said in the letter, not to disturb his soul, which deserved to be at peace, but to make a clean breast of the resentments that poisoned their relationship from the day he was born. He didn't want the anger to harden and haunt him in his grave. He desired a closure with his father, and chose the path of a five-page, single-space typewritten letter. He composed this letter in a rich Shakespearean style so different from the dry legal opinions he used to draft, and titled it "To a dead father: a soliloquy."

I can only suppose that the choice of a literary vehicle gave him some distance from these profoundly personal feelings, the better to see them objectively and put words to them. He wrote it in Kapampangan, the language of his father. But the addressee had been dead for almost 10 years when the author wrote it. It took my father all that time, when he was nearly 60 and dying, to sort out the emotionally bruising relationship he had with his father.

He died two years after writing this "soliloquy" without telling anyone about it, except possibly my mother who outlived him by 20 years. She must have read it, but did not show it to us, probably believing that death should be allowed to lay these pains to rest. After she passed away, one of my brothers chanced upon it while going through mother's personal effects.

One bright Sunday morning, we, the adult descendants of two strong-willed patriarchs, gathered in a quiet corner of our parental home, far away from our own children, to listen to a voice from the past. My father's letter was as much a reckoning with his father as it was an attempt to define the meaning of his life. It was replete with references to incidents he considered important, including the curious fact that he had to be born in the house of a kin where his pregnant mother had sought refuge following a distressing quarrel with her husband.

As if to contrast the loving family he built with the conflict-filled one in which he grew up, my father drew portraits of his wife and each one of his 13 children. How he admired the strength, wisdom and resilience of his wife. How proud he felt for each one of his 13 children, his real treasure, he said, and the one true measure of a parent's worth. As we listened, we began to understand this sad and alienated son. We also felt we understood our family better.

His monologue was full of ambivalence. He was pouring out his bitterness in buckets, yet he never came close to rejecting his father in spite of the powerful feelings that came between them. He continued to thirst for his affection and recognition, as if asking him to acknowledge the honor and respect that he, by the practice of his profession, had added to the family name. Not once did I ever disgrace you, he wrote, and beyond that, you can be proud of the way I have raised my children. More than an accounting of one man's failure as a parent, this was a lament for a human being who could have been loved had he been kinder and less self-centered.

Now and then I read my father's letter and I never cease to wonder if a letter like that could have saved a severely injured relationship had it been written much earlier. It would have shaken and tempered my grandfather, and we would certainly have had fonder memories of him. For grandparents always have a special place in the hearts of children. They tend to be to their grandchildren what they often could not be to their own children—generous, funny and eternally forgiving. But not my grandfather.

That between father and son must be the most difficult of all human relationships. Even traditional fathers can be affectionate and demonstrative to their daughters, but they will always be firm and formal with their sons. Fathers spend hours lecturing their sons about correct behavior, and careers and life choices they would have wished for themselves. Sons spend their youth trying to fend off these intrusions, fearing their fathers, rebelling against them, but ultimately feeling guilty when they do not quite measure up to the old man's expectations.

It is a pity that fathers, and sons are usually too embarrassed to talk about their misunderstandings. When they want to reach out to one another, they do so through their spouses or through the grandchildren. Seldom would they write letters to each other, unless one of them initiates communication and acknowledges his share of the blame. Our culture prescribes that sons must take the initiative. But the truly character-defining moments come when fathers can bring themselves to admit their own mistakes and reconcile with their sons.

These reflections all come together for me not only because today is Father's Day, but because, as I write this, a young Filipino son living in Australia is charged with the mysterious murder of his parents and sister. The evidence is purely circumstantial: the investigators have uncovered information that he was a battered child, and so he had a motive to kill his father. Slaying one's father is not as common in our culture as the figurative equivalent of suing him in court or having him declared mentally incapacitated.

My father could do neither. He wrote his dead father a letter instead, not really to reconcile with him, but to finally free himself from the resentment that had imprisoned him. At the door of death, he faced the unknown with a clean slate, hoping to catch up in the afterlife with the father he wanted so much to have loved.

* * *

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Survey results on Filipino pride

A LOT of eyebrows may have been raised when the INQUIRER published last week the results of the survey conducted by the University of the Philippines on how the Filipinos see themselves as a nation.

The poll, taken in November 2001, showed that 82 percent of the respondents in the entire country and 91 percent of those based in Metro Manila are proud to be Filipinos.

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

According to former UP president Jose Abueva, the relatively greater national pride of Metro Manilans, who are usually better informed and more critical than the nation as a whole, made the finding more remarkable.

The otherwise encouraging survey results were however marred by the finding that more Filipinos are dissatisfied with the way democracy works in our country.

It is interesting to note that the expression of Filipino pride was made when the country was beset by serious economic, social and political problems. The survey period can hardly be considered the best of times in the country.

In November 2001, the economic fall-out from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States had already reached the Philippines. Several foreign investors pulled out their stakes in the country to cut their losses. The barely surviving local tourist industry was further battered by the reluctance of foreign tourists to visit.

With the Abu Sayyaf bandits then holding hostage American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham, many Filipinos entertained serious doubts about the ability of the military to handle the situation in Mindanao.

Bad conditions

There were even reports that disgruntled military officials identified with deposed President Joseph Estrada were planning to wrest political power from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

On the political front, the sympathizers of the former president were demonstrating in the streets to protest the alleged mistreatment of their fallen idol by the Sandiganbayan.

The Chinese-Filipino community reeled from the series of unsolved kidnapping of some of their members. Hardly a week passed without some heinous crimes being committed in the community, even in the supposedly secure residential enclaves of the rich.

In other words, it was not a period conducive to proclaiming one's love for his country. A heavy feeling of gloom and frustration pervaded the country at the time of the survey.

In spite of those problems, however, the survey showed that the majority of the Filipinos remained undaunted and continued to be proud of their country. They may complain and rant about the inefficiencies or shortcomings of the government, but those were not reason enough for them to abandon their heritage in favor of another way of life.

What makes the finding more interesting is that the people who answered the survey questions were in the 18 years old and older bracket, which is considered the most productive age period for a person. Combined with good education and professional training, the people in this age category are the most likely candidates for outward migration; they are much sought by Western countries in need of fresh blood and brains.

Apparently, the survey respondents believe the future of the country is not as bleak as predicted by the doomsayers. They are optimistic that things will change for the better (in spite of the politicians) and that their God-given talents can best be used to improve the lot of their countrymen.

Reason for pride

The reasons behind the expression of patriotism by most Filipinos during a time of political and economic uncertainty could be a fitting subject for study by sociologists and political analysts. Is there anything in the Filipino psyche or culture that would account for that unexpected, though uplifting, positive response?

This may sound facetious, but one possible explanation is that Filipinos who have given up on this country have already moved out and only those who consider the adversities that made the others leave as challenges to be hurdled were the ones left to answer the survey questions.

Perhaps, the employment of millions of Filipinos abroad and their subsequent return to the country had something to do with that change in attitude toward the motherland.

A former overseas Filipino worker who was based in the Middle East for more than 10 years told this author that the years he spent outside the country made him more nationalistic. He resented being treated as a second-class citizen in spite of the high executive position he held.

The humiliation gave him the resolve to excel in his work, to prove that the Filipino is as good, if not better than, the people who think the abundance of oil resources gives them the right to look down on other less financially endowed people.

In the process, he, together with his fellow expatriates, developed an "us against them" attitude (or a feeling that the only way to get even with the arrogant foreigners is to band together) which to this day he continues to believe is the best way to survive in this world.

If you multiply the number of OFWs who have the same frame of mind with the relatives with whom they shared their experiences, the number of Filipinos imbued with a newfound sense of nationalism can run into millions. It is not far-fetched to speculate that many of them may have been respondents in the survey.

It is also possible that the expression of pride in Filipino citizenship is a consequence of the bonding of Filipinos in the face of adversity. Like what happened in the 1986 Edsa Revolution when all sectors of society forgot their differences and forged a common front to bring down the Marcos dictatorship.

Let's leave it to the sociologists and pollsters to analyze the survey results. They're the experts when it comes to feeling the people's pulse and explaining why they act in certain ways.

In the meantime, let's enjoy the good feeling that the UP survey results has engendered among a people battered by social and economic problems. Positive news does not come every day.

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TALK of the TOWN

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

What's the best way to finish off the Abu Sayyaf?

MILITARY officials have expressed confidence that they can finally finish off the Abu Sayyaf now that it no longer holds hostages.

"We have broken the (Abu Sayyaf) backbone," Major Gen. Ernesto Carolina, Southern Command chief, said. 'It isn't close. It is here," he said, referring to the destruction of the bandit group.

From a peak of 1,200 fighters, the Abu Sayyaf has been reduced to about 200, according to Carolina. Nine, including Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya, are said to be trapped in Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte.

"Their end is near," Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Armed Forces chief of staff, said.

Just how near, nobody knows. What is sure though is that the Abu Sayyaf has become more mobile without hostages.

To locate and finally destroy the bandits in the Zamboanga peninsula and in their strongholds in Basilan and Jolo, the military certainly needs to form a ring of informants.

The leaders of the Abu Sayyaf may fall, but the rebellion will continue as long as the conditions that engendered it remain.

Eliminating the causes that forced Muslim youths to take up arms against the government will take time.

'People and personalities in a rebellion may die, but their cause will continue so long as the conditions that created it exist'

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO
PAGE DESIGN: ERNIE SAMBO

'Remove the root causes of rebellion'

By Rolly Kintanar
Former chief, New People's Army

THE ABU Sayyaf is a small group (my guess is about 80) well- trained in guerrilla tactics, alternately concentrating, dispersing and shifting based on tactical objectives.

Its advantages include a do-or-die belief in its cause, high degree of mass base support (where population is spread out, armed and occasionally lending intelligence, security and combat support), and mastery of an ideal guerrilla terrain (heavily forested, dotted with ravines and caves, a misty rainy weather that makes visibility near zero, tracks easily washed out and sound of rain that muffles any breakout from a cordon).

Night movement

The Abu Sayyaf also has the ability to expand the theater of operations by maximizing the use of the seas that are laden with treacherous coral reefs and shoals, conduct night movement, and enjoy the advantage of long years of guerrilla experience.

We had a similar experience in the past. For nearly five years (between 1971 and 1975) more than 10 battalions ringed the forested area of Isabela where we were based. They combed the area back and forth without let up. We had three rifle guerrilla companies at the start and a few platoons and service squads.

Our orders from higher authorities were to stay put at all costs. In the first two years we initiated more than 250 daring operations on the cordon's weak spots, hoping that the constant battles of attrition would break their will and call off the encirclement. But the situation turned into a nightmare. They kept coming with fresh troops.

Poisoned rivers

Our mass base of 50,000 inhabitants were forcibly evacuated and hamleted, cutting our logistical supplies. We had to eat what the forests offered and it made us weak and malnourished. From the outside we had lost communications and our ammo became very low. The rivers were poisoned and enemy patrols kept coming. We could only evade them.

It was quite eerie to see all your comrades sick, many shaking and moaning from malaria, typhus or dysentery, not a few vomiting blood due to TB.

It was common to wake up in the morning and bury one or two comrades who died of sickness during the night. We could no longer shoot the enemy. Ammo was critically low and giving away our positions by firing would cause our annihilation. We could only run, disperse and reconcentrate when spotted. Many times patrols came as close as one meter with their boots nearly trampling on us.

It was only in 1975 when higher authorities rescinded the order of the Region and ordered a strategic retreat. Our forces were able to break out of the encirclement in different directions. The survivors numbered only 20 to 30 percent of our original forces. In no time they multiplied everywhere in Northern Luzon.

There was great relief as many of our foe's battalions were shifted to Mindanao by 1975 as the Moro National Liberation Front waged an island-wide offensive. By 1987 NPA forces in Northern Luzon alone had one full battalion, five to six companies, dozens of independent platoons and squads, and several thousands of militia. These were cut down into small units in 1992 greatly weakening them and causing large areas to be lost.

Peace

What I am saying is this: People and personalities in a rebellion may die, but the cause will continue so long as the conditions that created it exist. Remove the root causes of rebellion and there will be peace in our land.

In a way, the Abu Sayyaf has already achieved many of its objectives. Notwithstanding its barbarism, it has brought to the attention of the whole world the plight of the Moro people. It has forced the government and the United States to pour a lot of development projects into the affected areas in their drive to isolate the Abu Sayyaf thereby benefiting the people.

It has also shown to the whole world that a small group of guerrillas can challenge the might of the strongest nation in the world.

'Cooperate fully with us in the campaign against terrorism'

By Colin L. Powell
US Secretary of State

ASIAN nations are contributing to the global anti-terrorism campaign by tightening law enforcement, border controls and intelligence cooperation to make it harder for terrorists to move about, to communicate and to plot their evil deeds against us. We also deeply appreciate the efforts of a number of Asian countries to deny funds to terrorist groups that operate under the guise of legitimate businesses or charities.

In their own backyards, the governments of Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore are cracking terrorist cells, arresting terrorism suspects and uncovering new leads, cooperating fully with us in the campaign against terrorism.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines fight courageously against indigenous terrorist organizations that clearly have international ties. I am proud, so proud, that American forces are helping to train and equip their Philippine Army counterparts to combat groups such as the Abu Sayyaf, a terrorist organization which regularly kidnaps, as you know too well, civilians for ransom.

Just last week, Philippine forces encountered the Abu Sayyaf holding two American missionaries, Martin and Gracia Burnham, and a Filipina nurse Ediborah Yap. The Burnhams had been hostages for over a year. Tragically, despite the best efforts of the Government of the Philippines to secure a safe release of the hostages, Martin Burnham and Ms Yap died in the firefight that followed and Gracia Burnham was wounded. Seven Philippine servicemen also were wounded.

Gracious lady

Mrs. Burnham is now back in her home in Kansas. And wonderful, gracious lady that she is, despite the loss of her husband, and despite what she must have gone through over the past year, she was gracious enough in her grief to express her appreciation and admiration for what the Philippine Government had done.

Vicious groups like Abu Sayyaf stop at nothing. They fear no one. The murderous example of Abu Sayyaf shows how right President Bush has been to lead a global campaign against all terrorists, all forms of terrorism, and not just against al-Qaida.

We recognize the domestic concerns that make some Asian states with large Muslim populations oft times reluctant to confront terrorism. They fear that taking action against terrorists will create martyrs. This fear stems from a popular misconception, fed by extremists, that the global campaign against terrorism is a war against Islam.

Islam's precepts

Nothing could be further from the truth. It is not we who threaten Islam. It is the terrorists who murder, who murder men, women and children and violate Islam's fundamental precepts of tolerance and peace. They threaten Islam. They do a disservice to a proud and noble religion.

Far, far greater dangers come from ignoring the problem of terrorism and letting radical minorities drive domestic politics, rather than taking strong action against terrorists and their sympathizers.

Among the 3,000 innocent souls murdered in the Sept. 11 attacks were people from South Korea, China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. They were not the first Asians to die at the hands of terrorists, and, tragically, we know they won't be the last. We have only to remember the sarin gas attack in the Tokyo subway in 1995.

Terrorism, without doubt, is a worldwide problem that will continue to require a resolute response from nations of every continent and creed, every region and religion.

***(Editor's note:** Statement sent by the US Embassy in response to the "Talk of the Town" question. This is actually a speech that Powell delivered before the Asia Society in New York on June 10.)*

'Establish a ring of informants'

Retired Maj. Gen. Cesar Tapia
Veteran of the Moro wars in Mindanao

WHAT the military needs to establish is a ring of informants who will lead it to the members of the Abu Sayyaf. It's difficult to track them down now without correct intelligence because they have broken into small groups.

You have to get the support of the people. When the hostages were still in Basilan, Abu Sayyaf members were dependent on their relatives and friends who shielded them from the military.

In Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte, the bandits, although isolated from their mass base, are in a big area. They have a wider playground. We need more troops to hunt them down. Every little piece of intelligence will be crucial to finish them off. ***(Fe Zamora)***

'Deny them supplies'

Retired Maj. Gen. Melchor Rosales
Spokesperson for the military operations against the Abu Sayyaf

THE ENDING is the neutralization of all groups, all bands that are existing at the moment. That's why there is stepped-up operations being conducted in three major areas: Zamboanga peninsula, Basilan and Jolo.

Of course, the government is undertaking other measures such as coordination with local government units and the police for a unified action.

That's right. It is part of denying supplies to the Abu Sayyaf. That is part of the military solution. ***(Martin Marfil)***

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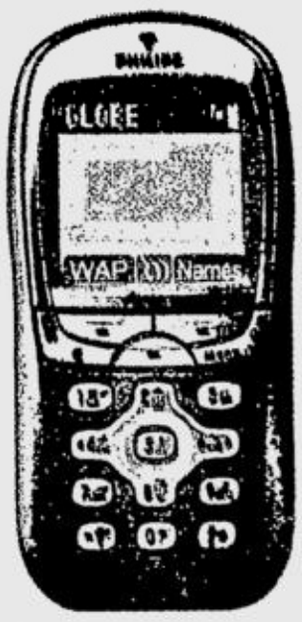

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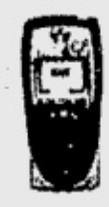

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US condemns Karachi bombing, shuts down missions in Pakistan

WASHINGTON—The United States closed its diplomatic missions in Pakistan as well as the American Center in Islamabad Friday after a deadly truck bomb attack on its consulate in Karachi that President George W. Bush blamed on "radical killers."

"These people, if they think they're going to intimidate the United States they do not understand the United States of America. And we will continue to hunt them down and seek justice," he said during a visit to Houston, Texas.

Secretary of State Colin Powell telephoned Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf to discuss the investigation into the attack and pledged continued US assistance in fighting terrorism in the country, the State Department said.

"We'll continue to work with Pakistani authorities on the investigation of this, as well as on joint work together against terrorism," deputy spokesman Philip Reeker said.

A previously unheard of militant group, al-Qanoon, claimed responsibility for the apparent suicide bomb attack in hand-delivered photocopied statements delivered to media organizations. US officials here would not comment.

"We fight an enemy that are radical killers. That's what they are. You know, they claim they're religious people and they blow up Muslims. They have no regard for individual life," Bush said angrily.

At least 11 Pakistanis were killed and dozens were injured when the powerful bomb tore a large hole in the consulate wall and shattered windows within a radius of one kilometer.

"Our hearts go out to our citizens and those affected by the bombings that took place. Our prayers are with their families, with the families of the people in Pakistan, as well," said the US president.

Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer said the bombing demonstrated the dangers terrorists continue to pose for the United States in the wake of the Sep. 11 strikes on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"This is a vivid reminder of the fact our nation is at war against terrorists who use any means at their disposal to harm Americans and others," he told reporters traveling with Bush.

Fleischer said he was unable to confirm whether the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden—the suspected mastermind of the Sep. 11 strikes, which killed some 3,000 people—was behind the attack.

A second State Department spokesperson, Lynn Cassel, said the attack "appears to be a suicide bombing, but we have received no claim of responsibility." She and Reeker declined comment on al-Qanoon.

"America and its allies and its slave Pakistani rulers should prepare for more attacks," the group said. "This bomb attack is just a beginning of al-Qanoon's jihadi operation in Pakistan."

Cassel said the US embassy and American Center were closed to the public immediately after the blast, as were the consulates in Lahore and Peshawar.

The missions were to remain closed to the public at least through the weekend, she said, adding that US diplomats would continue their work.

The bombing slightly wounded a US Marine guard and five local Pakistani employees at the mission, Cassel said.

"In addition, we believe that two or more contract consulate guards were critically injured," she said, calling the explosion the result of an "enormous truck bomb" that went off just 15 meters from the southeast corner of the consulate.

Some 40 other people, mainly passersby, were also injured.

The attack came a day after US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld visited Pakistan on a mission to ease tensions with India, and a month after another Karachi car bombing that killed 11 French nationals traveling in a minibus.

Tensions are on the rise among expatriates living in Pakistan, after the abduction and murder of US reporter Daniel Pearl in January as he investigated Islamic militants in Karachi. *AFP*

THREE-year-old Indian Muslim girl Jitoon Bibi, who fled her village situated close to the India-Pakistan border, holds her cousin at a relief camp at Jhiri, some 22 km from Jammu, June 14. Thousands of villagers have fled their homes close to the border due to regular cross-border shelling, although some have started returning after India made tentative moves early this week to diffuse the crisis, moving its warships from Pakistan waters and reopening its airspace to Pakistan flights. REUTERS

STILL BURNING AFP

Firefighter Chris Jones works a part of the wildfire June 14 near Trumble, Colorado, USA. Over 1,700 firefighters from throughout the country have responded to the Hayman fire which has burned nearly 40,500 hectares since June 11 in the Pike National Forest.

6 dead in Kashmir fighting despite US calls for peace

NEW DELHI—Indian and Pakistani troops fired artillery into each other's territory Friday, and six civilians were reported killed, despite calls by the United States for an end to the shelling.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld shuttled between New Delhi and Islamabad earlier this week pushing for a halt to all artillery and mortar fire across the frontier in Kashmir, a region claimed by both India and Pakistan.

Before leaving Islamabad on Thursday, Rumsfeld said such a lull would "begin a process of easing some of the lingering hostilities" between the two nuclear-armed neighbors.

However, his call received a cool response from India and none from Pakistan.

"We examine all options and take action at an appropriate time," Indian External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh said Friday, when asked about Rumsfeld's push for a halt to shelling. He said India had announced a moratorium on all hostile action last November, but that the situation had since changed.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee convened a meeting of his Cabinet Committee on Security to review his discussions with Rumsfeld.

"The situation is pregnant with possibilities. I am waiting for the right moment," Singh told reporters, who asked if India was going to take further diplomatic steps to relieve the tense situation.

Between visits to the subcontinent by US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage last week and Rumsfeld this week—both aimed at easing tensions between India and Pakistan—New Delhi lifted a six-month ban on Pakistani aircraft flying over Indian space and pulled back warships from positions close to Pakistani waters. *AP*

Karzai vows to end Afghan 'quagmire'

KABUL—Newly elected Afghan President Hamid Karzai vowed Friday to use his mandate to crack down on the country's warlords and push donors to make good on aid pledges as a grand assembly prepared to shape his Cabinet.

"The objective is to take Afghanistan to a better life," Karzai told a press conference a day after being elected head of state by delegates at the Loya Jirga traditional gathering.

"The objective is to take Afghanistan out of this quagmire in which it was. Warlordism, terrorism, hunger, oppression of the Afghan people.

"We should do everything to bring the Afghan people to dignity and the good life that they so very much deserve," said Karzai, who referred to himself as president.

Since Karzai became interim leader six months ago, regional warlords and their militias have continued to wreak havoc outside Kabul where the government's influence is limited.

"The Afghan people want to get rid of warlordism, they want to get rid of the gun... We will do everything to bring that to the Afghan people. That's my mandate," he said.

He also underlined his determination to make the international community deliver on its promises to underwrite the nation's reconstruction.

Donors pledged some $5 billion to help reconstruct Afghanistan over the next five years at a conference in January but Karzai said the amount of money received so far was "minimal in comparison to the aid promised." *AFP*

US bishops bar pedophile priests

DALLAS—Seeking to rebuild confidence in a church rocked by a sex abuse scandal, US Roman Catholic bishops agreed on Friday to bar pedophile priests from acting as clerics, but stopped short of automatically expelling them from the priesthood.

The policy, approved overwhelmingly at an emergency summit of the nation's top Catholic leaders, provoked an immediate backlash from victims groups and some other critics, who said it fell short of a true "zero tolerance" approach to priests who molest children.

But bishops said the policy would protect children and said anyone who contended it goes easy on sex predators had not read it carefully.

The policy allows, but does not require, church superiors to defrock accused priests of their clerical status, effectively expelling them from the church and removing their pensions and housing.

But in some cases, particularly elderly priests who may face accusations decades of years old, the policy will permit local bishops to extend the hand of mercy by keeping the accused officially in the priesthood—albeit under orders to live a "life of prayer and penance" and permanently banned from celebrating Mass publicly, wearing clerical garb or presenting themselves publicly as priests.

"The sum total of those actions means that bishops will not tolerate even one act of sexual abuse of a minor," said Bishop Wilton Gregory, who presided over the meeting. "There will be severe consequences for any act of sexual abuse. No free pass, no second chances, no first strike."

The new policy, reached after two days of extraordinary meetings by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Dallas, marks the leadership's official response to the scandal that has engulfed the Catholic Church since January, when internal church documents revealed officials in the Boston Archdiocese reassigned priests accused of molesting children without warning parishioners.

The sex abuse crisis soon spread around the country and the world and cost four US bishops and some 250 priests their jobs. Bishops in Poland, Ireland and Australia have also been forced out over their involvement in the scandal.

The bishops' new policy, which they passed by a 239-13 vote, must be approved by the Vatican to become binding, although some observers said they expected the crackdown to begin immediately. *Reuters*

MELISSA Corts holds her confirmation photo during a press conference following bishops' 239-13 vote in favor of barring pedophile priests from acting as clerics during the US Conference of Catholic Bishops in Dallas, Texas June 14. REUTERS

Israeli troops enter Jenin as US readies initiative

JENIN, West Bank—Israeli forces entered the West Bank city of Jenin on Saturday, declared a curfew and searched for suspected Palestinian militants, the army and witnesses said.

The pre-dawn raid was the latest in a series of almost daily incursions into Palestinian-ruled territory that have maintained pressure on Palestinian militant groups as US President George W. Bush works on a peace initiative after 20 months of conflict.

The US administration held more consultations with Middle East leaders on Friday as Bush prepares to unveil his vision, based on a two-state solution, probably next week.

Palestinian witnesses said tanks, armoured vehicles and jeeps entered Jenin in the northern West Bank before dawn, opening fire from heavy machineguns. Troops remained in the city two hours later but there were no reports of any casualties.

The army said a patrol entered Jenin because of intelligence reports that militants planned an attack from the city.

"There is a curfew. We received information that someone planned a terror attack from Jenin," an army spokeswoman said. She said she knew of no arrests.

Militants groups have killed scores of Israelis in suicide attacks since an uprising against Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in September 2000 after peace talks stalled.

The army has regularly raided Palestinian-ruled towns, cities, villages and refugee camps in operations which it says are intended to seek out militants and halt the suicide attacks.

Israeli forces have entered Jenin several times since heavy fighting broke out in the city and its adjacent refugee camp in April during a major Israeli military offensive across the West Bank that failed to halt the suicide bombings. *Reuters*

KASAYSAYAN, KULTURA, LIKAS-YAMAN AT PAMAHALAAN SA AGOS NG PANAHON

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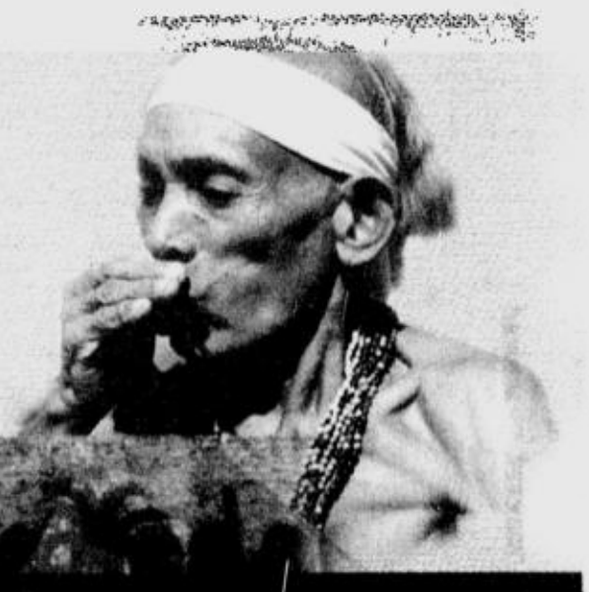
A Centennial Festival of Palawan's Civil Government



Baragatan 2002

Join the Celebration! Discover Palawan's Culture, Savor Delicious Delicacies in a Clean and Green Environment

MESSAGE

Malacañan Palace
Manila

My warmest felicitations to the people and local officials of Palawan on the occasion of the 100th Founding Anniversary of the Civil Government of your province. This auspicious occasion present an opportune time to reflect and asses what you have accomplished for your family, your community and your province. It is also the time to rally behind your local leaders in the implementation of reforms for the good of our people.

May you be inspired by your achievements and to do even better in the future.

May this year's anniversary theme, "Palawan: Kasaysayan, Likas-yaman at Pamahalaan sa Agos ng Panahon - 1902-2002," bring about a stronger partnership and cooperation between us in our continuing quest for peace and order, poverty alleviation and good governance.

I urge the Palaweños to join hands with our administration in achieving economic recovery and growth. May this occasion serve to strengthen your faith in God, in one another and in the rest of the national community.

Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Tourism

My warmest congratulations to the people of Palawan during the Baragatan 2002, the grand celebration for the centennial founding of your province's civil government.

The Baragatan Festival highlights the theme, "Palawan: Kasaysayan, Kultura, Likas Yaman at Pamahalaan sa Agos ng Panahon (1902-2002)". It features the history, culture, natural resources and civil government of Palawan for the past one hundred years. Through Baragatan's slogan "Makilsa at makisaya, Taas, Noo, Atin Ito", the local government of Palawan enjoins all Palaweños to unite and celebrate with pride and gratitude for the graces and blessings bestowed on them and their province, as together, they face the challenges of the next centenary.

As Palawan begins another chapter of its history, it continues to contribute to sustainable tourism development and to the socioeconomic development of the country in line with the thrusts of the present administration.

For its part, the Department of Tourism has initiated programs which will lead up to next year's "Visit Philippines 2003" as fully endorsed by the World Tourism Organization.

The "Visit Philippines 2003" campaign integrates all tourism marketing efforts to stimulate and increase visitor-arrivals to our country next year. It seeks to build a strong partnership with the local travel trade, mass media and local government units to mount a focused, well-planned and sustained marketing program including the "WOW Philippines!" and "The Philippines: More Than the Usual" campaigns.

Moreover, our fiestas and other special events like the "Baragatan" showcase a new face for the Philippines and the Filipinos through our national advocacy for the development of a "culture of tourism". These events support other DOT initiatives such as Tourism Volunteer-12 and the New "Balikbayan" Programs, Hubs & Spokes" Destination System, the DOT Visitors Information System and the Tourism Enterprise Zones, where the Palaweños can truly make a difference.

With the celebration of the "Baragatan", I enjoin the Palaweños to continue harnessing their resources for the sociocultural and environmental concerns as well as other tourism potentials of Palawan.

In this way, the celebration develops the local people's humanity, engenders a sense of belongingness and strengthens our national identity. At the same time, it communicates to both local and foreign visitors our competitive edge as a multifaceted business and travel destination during the "Visit Philippines 2003" and beyond.

Mabuhay!

RICHARD J. GORDON
Secretary, Department of Tourism

Republic of the Philippines
Provincial Government of Palawan
Office of the Governor

We mark a significant milestone in the history of our province: the 100th year of the founding of Palawan's Civil Government.

We are indeed fortunate to be here and to be a part of the unfolding of a historic event. Since this is a rare occasion, we should celebrate Baragatan 2002 with much rejoicing and take the opportunity to pay homage to our Creator for guiding this province to the road to peace and development; for the richness of our environment as well as our history and culture heritage.

Let us take this opportunity to salute the past leaders, former elected public officials and civil servants who, by their efforts both great and small, have contributed to the establishment of the Provincial Government of Palawan. Their initiatives and achievements have truly paved the way for the development of our people and the province as well as the preservation of our culture and natural resources.

The centennial theme: Palawan: Kasaysayan, Kultura, Likas-yaman at Pamahalaan sa Agos ng Panahon -1902-2002 reminds us that we are what we are today because of our history, heritage, environment and government.

May the centennial celebration inspire all of us to unite and work together to pursue with greater fervor the sustainable development of our province.

Mabuhay ang Palaweño!

JOEL T. REYES
Governor, Province of Palawan

Republic of the Philippines
Provincial Government of Palawan
Office of the Vice-Governor

The Iwahig Prison and Penal Colony in Puerto Princesa. The Leper Colony in Culion. And the malaria that stalked everyone everywhere in Palawan. These are ominously strong images that haunted our beloved Province for many, many years of its existence.

One therefore could not help but be awed by the stoutness of heart, the grim determination and perseverance fo all those who came before us, our ancestors in fact. We who believe in the present could not but be thankful to them for their strength, especially of character, that they must have passed down to us.

This I say because, like true sons and daughters of such hardy forebears, we have shown our own true grit when we succeeded, during our watch, in turning the Iwahig Prison and the Culion Leper Colonies, erstwhile liabilities, into assets; when we put our resources towards eliminating the scourge that is malaria; when we fought to preserve and conserve our rich natural heritage - forests and our seas; when we had made Palawan as a Hall of Fame awardee for being the country's cleanest and greenest Province; when we had the Tubattaha National Marine Park and the Puerto Princesa City Subterranean River National Park declared by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites.

Indeed, what we - the present Palaweños - have accomplished are no mean feat. They are things, monument in fact, that our ancestors would be very happy and proud of.

It is in this context that I greet every Palaweño, native-born or otherwise, a happy and memorable celebration of the 100th Founding Anniversary of the Civil Government of Palawan on 16-23 June 2002. One hundred years is not such a long time, especially for a community as big as Palawan. That our beloved Province has grown to such progress and stature one hundred years after the establishment of its civil government is a testimony to the perseverance of our ancestors, and to our very own unity and strong sense of purpose.

If in the past our forefathers had so much to look forward to despite the odds, there is every reason for every Palaweño now to be happy and proud of the present, and to be upbeat of the future. Maligayang Pagdiriwang po!

DAVID A. PONCE DE LEON
Vice-Governor, Province of Palawan

THE week-long Baragatan 2002, commemorating the establishment of Palawan's civil government begins today, June 16. The streets around the Provincial Capitol, where the activities will gravitate, are trimmed with green, yellow and orange buntings while colorful Baragatan streamers bearing the centennial logo hang from light posts and at the facade of government and business establishments around the city.

Governor Joel T. Reyes will lead Palaweños coming from the 23 municipalities and Puerto Princesa City in celebrating a milestone in the history of the province. With the centennial theme: Palawan: kasaysayan, kultura, likas-yaman at pamahalaan sa agos ng panahon 1902-2002, Baragatan 2002 will be a mixture of presentations, parades, competitions, exhibits and expositions depicting Palawan's historical and cultural heritage as well as an occasion to celebrate and pay homage to Palawan's environment and natural treasures. It will also showcase the programs and initiatives of the Provincial Government created to steer the province to sustainable growth and economic development.

Baragatan will culminate with street dancing and merrymaking. Below, Gov. Joel T. Reyes with Palaweño schoolchildren.

"Baragatan 2002 will be a total celebration of our past, present and future. For the past 100 years, the civil government has taken great efforts to preserve our cultural heritage; conserve and protect our environment. We are a product of our history, culture and natural resources," explains Gov. Reyes. To mark the event, the provincial government in cooperation with the local government units and the private sector has organized forty-six daily events and nineteen week-long activities. A lot of these activities will happen simultaneously giving Palaweños and guests a wide range of shows, events to watch, enjoy and experience.

More than a hundred booths made of bamboo, coco lumber, nipa and sawali have mushroomed along Fernandez st. Handicrafts, farm produce from vegetables and fruits in season, cashew, dried fish, tahong and other marine products coming from the different municipalities will be sold in the LGU Trade Fair.

The private sector, mostly members of the Palawan Chamber of Commerce Incorporated, joins the festivities with it's own Private Trade Show.

A fair will not be complete without the Food Festival where sumptuous delicacies and other food items will be sold. Tables and chairs will be set up on the streets for those who want to dine beneath the starry skies of Palawan.

The celebration will see the Provincial Capitol in action as there will be several government services during the Baragatan 2002. Among these are the jobs fair, the processing of old and new passports by the DFA Passport Mobile Team; free health and dental services; hands-on computer literacy training; One Village One Product Trade show featuring Palawan's primary products. Meanwhile, a team of design consultants from the Design Center of the Philippines will be coming for the Baragatan 2002 to provide free consultations with local food manufacturers in design packaging.

To stress the importance of the environment to Palawan's development, several environmental activities will take place at the Baragatan. The kick-off ceremony of the provincewide Pista ng Kalikasan, a tree-planting and mangrove planting festival which won the Galing Pook Award in 1998, will be held simultaneously with the celebration of the City of Puerto Princesa' Pista y ang Kagueban. This will be a massive tree-planting event on June 22 to be participated in by students, government and private employees, public servants and people from all walks of life. The City of Puerto Princesa has billed this yearly environmental action as Kagueban sa Baragatan.

Environmentalists meanwhile will have a concert billed Jamming sa Paraiso on June 18.

Baragatan 2002 will give young and old Palaweños the chance to relive traditional Palawan songs and dances through the various cultural presentations.

Ms Dinggot Prieto has put together the Gabi ng Sining at Kalinangan which will feature several cultural groups performing traditional, old and modern compositions using indigenous musical instruments.

Significant portions of the province's history and culture will be presented in dioramas in the Palawan Heritage Exhibit. Another interesting cultural presentation is Kawangis ng Buwan: Damar, a musical based on the life story of Damar, a Palaw'an hero and a demi-god. Local talents and musicians will be featured in the musical.

Pintura Gallery will feature the impressions of local visual artists in a show billed Reflections.

Adding beauty, charm and glamour to the week-long celebration are the bevy of Palawan beauties who will be competing for the Mutya ng Palawan 2002 crown. The Mutya ng Palawan Talent Night is on June 20 and the Coronation Night is on June 22.

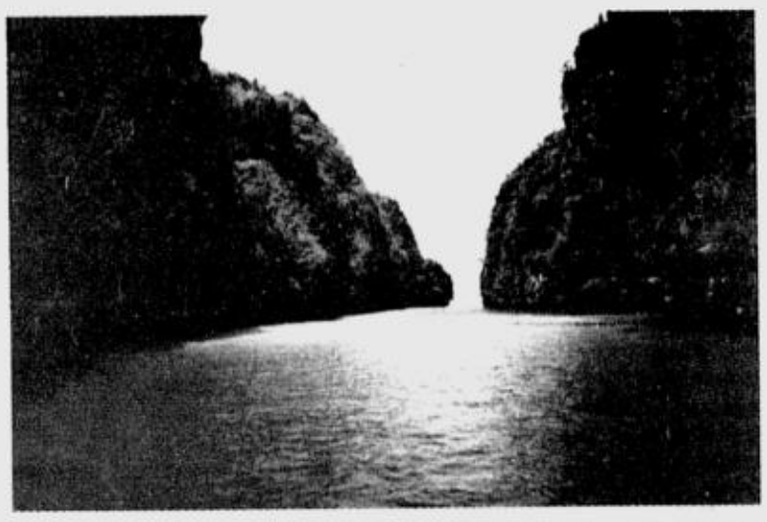
The Baragatan festival will culminate on June 23, the anniversary of the establishment of the civil government, with the offering of the Holy Mass followed by Street Dancing and merrymaking.

With all these events and the support of the local government units and the private sector, Baragatan 2002 will remain a memorable event that will surely inspire the next generation of Palaweños who will be around to commemorate the bicentennial of Palawan's civil government.

For inquiries on Baragatan 2002 schedule, call Provincial Information Office at (02)433-4566 or e-mail at pio-pal@mozcom.com.

Development in Harmony with Nature

Enchanting El Nido



In pursuing the sustainable development of Palawan, the Provincial Government has always been guided by the history, culture and ecological biodiversity of the province.

Under his leadership, Gov. Reyes ensures that all these aspects are incorporated and taken into consideration in the formulation of developmental strategies. This is well emphasized in the provincial developmental vision as stated in these words, "A province where people, culture, religion and economy are in harmony with environment and natural resources living in a peaceful, orderly and prosperous community."

To attain this vision, Gov. Reyes streamlined the organizational structure of the Provincial Government to attain efficiency in management and effect a more client-oriented, flexible and integrated delivery of services. To assist decision-makers in planning and assessing the impact of government interventions, the province adopted the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) and the Geographic Information System. With CBMS and GIS, the province was able to produce the Human Development Report last year which is the first locally prepared HDR in the country.

Based on assessed needs, Gov. Reyes is pursuing electrification projects with the assistance of the Department of Energy. Last year, the provincial government funded the completion of energization projects in barangays and municipalities worth more than P40M . It has also projects using new and renewable sources of energy.

Water projects are pursued to address water needs of the populace. Sixteen barangays will benefit from the P200M World Bank-assisted Barangay Environment and Sanitation Project. Four hundred units of Level I water systems under the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project are scheduled to be installed in various parts in the province within the next five years beginning this year. .

In just eight months in office, Gov. Reyes completed the construction of 148.91 kms of farm to market roads linking 72,073.06 has. of farmlands to centers of trade and benefiting 18,344 farmers. More farm to market roads will be constructed under the second phase of the road development package.

Gov. Reyes strives to sustain the improvement in the human development index of Palawan by pursuing and maintaining the Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services or CIDSS to help meet the minimum basic needs and empower the poorest families in 4th, 5th and 6th class municipalities.

Another social welfare endeavor of Gov. Reyes is the Lakbay Bayanihan, a convergence of material and human resources from national and local government agencies. Lakbayan addresses the immediate needs of barangay folks and brings government services to the people. Since the start of Lakbayan three years ago, it has delivered medical and dental services to 315, 541 beneficiaries living in remote barangays of the province.

For its health and nutrition programs and projects, the province has integrated the community-based health program into the Provincial Health Office to help Palaweños put health into their own hands. It will create the Provincial Malaria Control Program to effect the integration of the Kilusan Ligtas Malaria and other malaria-control programs into the mainstream of the health delivery system in order to eliminate this scourge of Palaweños.

In the area of education, Gov.Reyes organized a Teacher's Pool to meet the need for well-trained and bonafide Palaweño teachers in the remote barangays of municipalities. Since 1994, Gov. Reyes has been sending deserving Palaweño students to college through the JTR Scholars program. Last year, there were 2,500 JTR scholars and it has produced 574 college graduates.

Environmental protection is a priority of the present leadership. Gov. Reyes launched last year an environmental watch-dog, the Kilusan Sagip Kalikasan which by the second quarter of 2002 alone has seized a total of 64,445.44 board feet of banned species of lumber.

The province strives to maintain its status as Hall of Fame awardees as the Cleanest and Greenest Province, and Cleanest and Greenest Inland Body of Water for Kayangan Lake through the provincewide Pista ng Kalikasan, and the clean and green programs in the municipalities and barangays.

Eco-tourism is strongly pursued with the help of the private sector and the Department of Tourism. Tour packages are promoted through the Palawan Tourism Council with emphasis on *Palawan: where every island is an adventure.*

As the province celebrates a significant milestone, the Provincial Government will continue to fulfill its commitment to usher the province to economic progress within the framework of sustainable development.

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Late rains to hasten road projects

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Delayed rains or the anticipated drought in the remaining months of this year may hasten the completion of six anti-lahar projects funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation on a P3.5-billion loan in this province's six flood-prone areas.

Late rains have allowed the Pinatubo Hazard Urgent Mitigation Project-Phase II to proceed as scheduled, according to Mario Bandelaria, chief of the Department of Public Works and Highways' Mount Pinatubo Emergency Project Management Office.

The project, which began in March 2000 and scheduled to end in 2006, seeks to "minimize the potential disastrous effects of lahar, mudflow and floods" in Pampanga's two still active lahar channels—the Pasig-Potrero river basin and Pasac delta area. It was also designed to confine future volcanic sediments within the two basins.

The rehabilitation of the southwest corner of the FVR Megadike (the project's Package 1), which the government touts as Pampanga's last defense against lahar, is 94 percent completed as of May 25. This costs P309.52 million.

In a report, Bandelaria said the FVR Megadike's closure dike (Package 2) which costs P141.66 million has faced delay due to right-of-way problems.

The improvement of the Baluyot Channel (Package 3) is 32 percent finished. The dredging in this segment is crucial to this city's relief from perennial flooding. The work amounts to P270.14 million.

Several typhoons during the past years had delayed the fortification of the San Fernando-Sto.Tomas-Minalin tail dike as well as the construction of evacuation roads in Bacolor town and channel improvement along the Gugu River, the report said.

Now at 94 percent completed and expecting more dry periods, the DPWH-MPE gave R-II Builders, the contractor, to wrap up the P331-million package this October.

The dredging and pilot channel excavation at the Pasac area (Package 5) and the Third River project—an artificial floodway—is 14 percent completed.

The dredging and widening along the San Fernando-Sasmuan River, another crucial floodway leading to the Manila Bay, is 28 percent completed.

Bandelaria said savings worth about P300 million have been generated from the project and have been earmarked for the reconstruction of the Mancatian Bridge and access roads in Porac town.

According to Bandelaria, the Japanese-funded project also plans to develop a land use plan to urge dislocated families to return to their original settlements.

Japanese consultants are preparing a master plan for the Pasac delta area and the Porac-Gumain river basin to reduce flooding in Pampanga's western areas.

Anti-lahar measures in Tarlac and Zambales, two other provinces affected by Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions and subsequent lahar flows in 1991, have been receiving lesser funding, it was learned.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology still considers Pampanga rivers, which drain directly from the volcano, as active channels of lahar.

The problems associated with lahar—flooding and inundation of low-lying villages—will persist for four more years, the Phivolcs said.

Of about seven billion cubic meters of sediments that the volcano spewed out in 1991, the Phivolcs said rains have washed down about three billion cubic meters in eight major river systems in Central Luzon. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi34° Lo25°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 26° Lo 17°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 36° Lo 24°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Armin Adina, PDI Research/06/16/02

Students in PAF crash site have new rooms

MABALACAT, Pampanga—More than 300 students here whose classrooms were damaged by the crash of a Philippine Air Force jet participating in the Balikatan exercise on May 2 are not going to hold their classes under trees.

The Philippine Air Force completed on Wednesday the construction of three new school buildings at the Mabalacat Elementary School in time for the school opening tomorrow.

Each with three classrooms, the buildings were built initially on a P500,000 grant from the PAF. Savings derived from the cancellation of the Balikatan's culminating activity in Ternate, Cavite, raised the funds to P2.3 million, according to Col. Edgar Elona, chief of the PAF's host unit in Clark, the 600th Air Base Wing.

The practical arts room, where the PAF's F-5 fighter jet crashed, was also rehabilitated.

Jesus Rivera, a teacher, was in that building when the jet crashed. He suffered from severe burns and died of a heart attack two days after the crash.

The PAF pilot, Col. Daniel Policarpio, was killed in the crash that occurred toward the end of the month-long bilateral exercise between about 3,000 Filipino and American troops.

No student was hurt in the mishap as it occurred during the summer break.

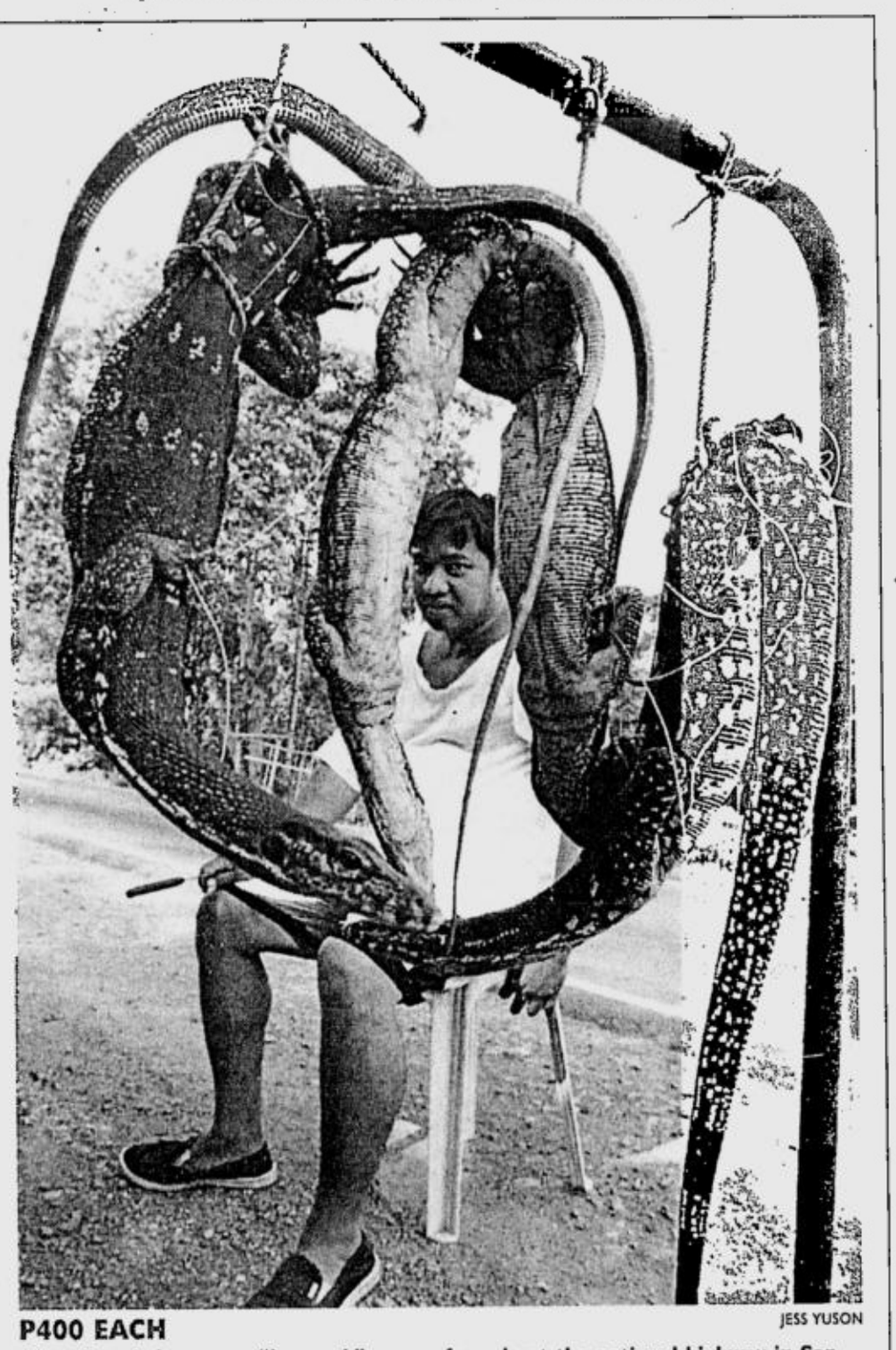
The new buildings were turned over to Department of Education officials on Thursday.

But teachers have complained of having no blackboards and bulletin boards to use.

Elona said the PAF paid only for the construction materials. It could not take responsibility for the desks and boards that were reportedly looted.

The DepEd donated 500 desks and chairs to the school, as there were no funds for these from the Mabalacat municipal government and the Pampanga provincial government.

Teachers said Gov. Manuel Lapid has yet to release the P3 million allotted for the restoration of schoolrooms. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***



JESS YUSON

P400 EACH
Giant lizards known as "*bayawak*" are up for sale at the national highway in San Jose, Batangas.

Dengue downs 28 in Iloilo

ILOILO CITY—The onset of the rainy season has kept health officials on their toes, watching out for the dreaded dengue fever.

Twenty-eight persons were sick of dengue as of last week, prompting the Iloilo provincial government to remind Ilonggos to clean their surroundings and other places.

Provincial health officer Carmen Bayate reported that dengue cases were reported in 12 of 42 towns and in one city from Jan. 2 to June 9 this year.

But she said that the cases were not alarming because there were no reported deaths and only an average of two persons got sick with dengue every month.

The town having the most number of cases is Badiangan with six, followed by Miag-ao, five and Januiay, four.

The other towns are Sta. Barbara, Dueñas and Guimbal with two cases each, and the towns of Alimodian, San Enrique, San Rafael, Ajuy and Concepcion with one case each. Two cases were reported in Passi City.

Among those who got ill of dengue in Badiangan early this month were Lobiel Mogato, 7, and Niel Andrew Boscar, 11.

Bayate said she expected more dengue cases to be reported in the next few weeks because the cases usually increased during the rainy season and decreased during summer.

Health stations in all towns of the province are closely monitoring the dengue cases, which they have to report to the provincial health office and Department of Health regional office.

The province has launched the "Four O'clock Habit," a regular cleaning of the breeding ground of "*Aedes aegypti*" and "*Aedes albopectus*" mosquitoes that carry the dengue virus.

The mosquitoes are known to breed in stagnant water. They bite only in early morning and later afternoon. They are known to hide in cisterns, jars, vases, open drains, tin cans and open tires, among others.

Households are asked to cover or empty the containers of water as well as trim the hedges and foliage of their plants. ***Ma. Diosa Labiste, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Japanese firm interested in funding Pangil bridge

OROQUIETA CITY—A Japanese company with a track record of building important infrastructure facilities in the Philippines has expressed interest in funding the construction of the Panguil Bay Bridge.

Misamis Occidental Gov. Loreto Leo Ocampos, who was part of President Macapagal Arroyo's entourage during her visit to Japan, said during their exploratory talks that officials of Sumitomo Corporation expressed their interest in shelling out funds to build the bridge project.

The project is estimated to cost P8 billion today, from P6 billion five years ago, he said.

The Tokyo-based Sumitomo Corporation has done construction work with the Philippine government for vital installation and facilities like the Manila Light Railway Transit system.

Ocampos, chair of Northern Mindanao's regional development council (RDC), has been in the thick of promoting the bridge project.

The Panguil Bay Bridge, conceived in the late 1980s as a symbol of friendship among the Muslim and Christian populations across the Bay, is expected to connect Barangay Silangga of Tangub City and Tubod town of Lanao del Norte.

It spans 7.3 kilometers from end to end, including the approaches on both sides, though it has a net bridge length of only 2.35 kilometers.

Engr. Max Musaid, the bridge's project manager of the Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA), said such physical design was meant to leave untouched the critical mangrove cover along both shores of Tangub and Tubod. The long approaches from both ends will just hover over said mangrove areas, important reproductive sanctuaries of fishes in the Bay. ***Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Vice mayor charged for fund disbursement mess

STA. MARIA, Bulacan—The vice mayor here and three other local officials are facing administrative complaints before the Office of the Ombudsman and the Bulacan provincial board for the alleged anomalous release of P25,000 to a local organization.

Facing complaints of graft, abuse of authority and falsification of public documents are Vice Mayor Nerissa Cruz, Councilor Marina Virgilio, municipal treasurer Zenaida Cinco and municipal accountant Elizabeth Mendoza.

Former Councilor Roger Barcial filed the complaints against the officials before the Ombudsman on May 20. These stemmed from the council's alleged anomalous release of P25,000 as financial assistance to the Samahan ng Katandaan of Barangay San Vicente last March.

Cruz, the presiding officer of the council that authorized the fund release, described the complaints as "political." She did not elaborate and declined to comment further.

Virgilio was included in the complaint as she endorsed the fund release after receiving a letter requesting financial assistance from the group.

The letter, dated Feb. 27, 2002, was signed by Mariquita Policarpio, the group's president, and Pedro Lucio, its adviser.

But Barcial said his investigation showed that Lucio had died in March 1992 and could have not signed the letter. ***Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Winning teacher lauded in home province

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Bouquets of flowers, a motorcade, convocation and citations from local officials have greeted a science teacher who won the prestigious Intel Foundation Excellence in Teaching Award.

A thunderous beat of the Atiatihan drums greeted Josette Talamera Biyo, 44, of the Philippine Science High School when she landed at the Iloilo Mandurriao Airport here on Monday.

After she was given bouquets of flowers, she then boarded a car that took her to the City Hall in Plaza Libertad to meet Mayor Jerry Treñas and then later to the Capitol for a meeting with Gov. Niel Tupas.

A convoy of vehicles followed her to the City Hall and then to the Capitol. A motorcade followed, which stopped at the PSHS in Barangay Bitoon, Jaro District where she met with fellow teachers and students and later for a press conference.

"The Philippines has yet to develop a scientific culture but it has many 'world-class' teachers, who can win international awards in science and engineering," said Biyo when asked of her message for winning the award on May 18 during the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair 2002 at Louisville, Kentucky.

Biyo bested four finalists from China and the US She won $5,000, a computer and a $20,000 grant.

Biyo told a press conference on June 10 that she relied on her passion and dedication when she went to the US last month as one of the five finalists selected from the 90 teachers who submitted their proposals on how to teach science to high school students.

Strategies

In the absence of state-of-the-art equipment and laboratories, Biyo told the panel of judges how she devised strategies to open her students' minds.

She brought along her collection of scientific journals and magazines for students to browse over and read. She also took them to field trips and visits to marine laboratories and some schools in Western Visayas.

She also invited experts on chemistry, agriculture, marine biology and ecology, to team-teach with her.

"Even with a meter stick and a piece of rope students can perform research. They don't have to rely on high-tech gadgets," said Biyo.

Biyo's winning proposal was chosen from among the 25 entries from the Philippines submitted to Intel. She said she knew she would win by the way judges ask her questions and how other finalists regard her.

There was a tense moment when, during the presentation, she had no notebook computer. Fortunately, one of the American finalists lent him his.

"I brought some transparency film in case there is no computer. I was also ready to resort to writing my presentation on the white board. As a teacher from a Third World country, I am always prepared for the worse," said Biyo.

"There are lots of dedicated science teachers in the country. They, too, can win international awards," she said.

The Intel's panel of judges was surprised to learn that Biyo is receiving only a monthly salary of $300 when her counterparts in the US and other countries received much more.

Proud

"She made us all proud," said Rebecca Yandog, director of the PSHS. "We knew that she'll make it when we leafed through the documents she was taking along with her."

Yandog said Biyo is an effective teacher because she is also a researcher. Her research studies have been published in scientific journals.

Biyo has been teaching at PSHS for seven years, handling research subjects for third and fourth year students.

She earned her Bachelor of Science major in Biology from the University of the Philippines in the Visayas. She earned her Master's Degree in Biology, specializing in marine toxicology, and Doctor of Philosophy in Biology from the De La Salle University.

Biyo also received two prestigious awards in teaching.

She won the Metrobank Foundation's Most Outstanding Teacher in 1997 and the Outstanding Young Filipino Award from the Philippine Jaycees and Gerry Roxas Foundation in 1998.

The Talemeras hail from Janiuay town, 32 kilometers from here. Biyo is the sixth of the eight children of Antonio Talamera Sr., and the late Ricarda Solidum.

"She has a lucky streak. She wins whenever she joins contests," said Biyo's sister, Janiba Escanlar.

Biyo has two sons, Juno Angelo, 15 and Julian Paulo, 7, by Nonito Biyo, a retired marine engineer. She will be recognized by President Macapagal-Arroyo during the presidential visit here tomorrow.

Aside from the cash award and the prestige brought by the award, she was also happy to receive a letter from a science institution in the US that it will name a lesser planet after her. "I'll be in the heavens," she said.

'HOME ALONG THE RILES'

PNR payment scheme hit

By Delfin Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—A planned lease agreement with families occupying both sides of the railway tracks in Quezon province has been assailed here.

A proposed lease contract by the Philippine National Railways involves a payment scheme which Quezon provincial board member Narciso Malite finds questionable.

"Should the PNR still put additional burden on the people living 'along the *riles*,' when we all know that most of them already live in depressed condition?" Malite asked.

He said he learned that the PNR requires railroad lot dwellers to pay P48.50 per square meter for houses built of light materials; P54.55 per sq. m. for semi-concrete ones, and P66.55 per sq. m. for concrete houses.

Pedro Villaverde, PNR area division manager, however, explained that the collection as part of the lease contract "is nothing new."

"But this time, the company would no longer base the computation on the classification of the municipalities where the houses are located. It will now depend on the kind of structure and location," he told the INQUIRER.

Applicants are also obliged to pay at least P200 as processing fee, Malite added.

The supposed contract, however, is good only for one year and each tenant is to be asked to give an advance payment equivalent to a one-year lease.

He said the scheme is in preparation for the planned privatization of the government-owned company.

Villaverde said several teams from the PNR real estate department are conducting surveys along the railroad tracks in Quezon.

"Initial reports (say) that some of the residents, although very much willing to enter into a lease agreement, still conveyed their request for the deduction of the fees," he said.

Malite said top PNR officials are giving the reports a serious study.

Malite claimed that under the scheme, the PNR wants to recoup all the money that it could at the expense of the poor.

"But what is galling is that even (if) there is already an existing lease contract, the PNR would still classify the other party as a squatter—that the company could still order it to leave in 30 days upon prior notice," he said.

Railroad tracks along the Bicol-Manila train route run from Tiaong to Calauag.

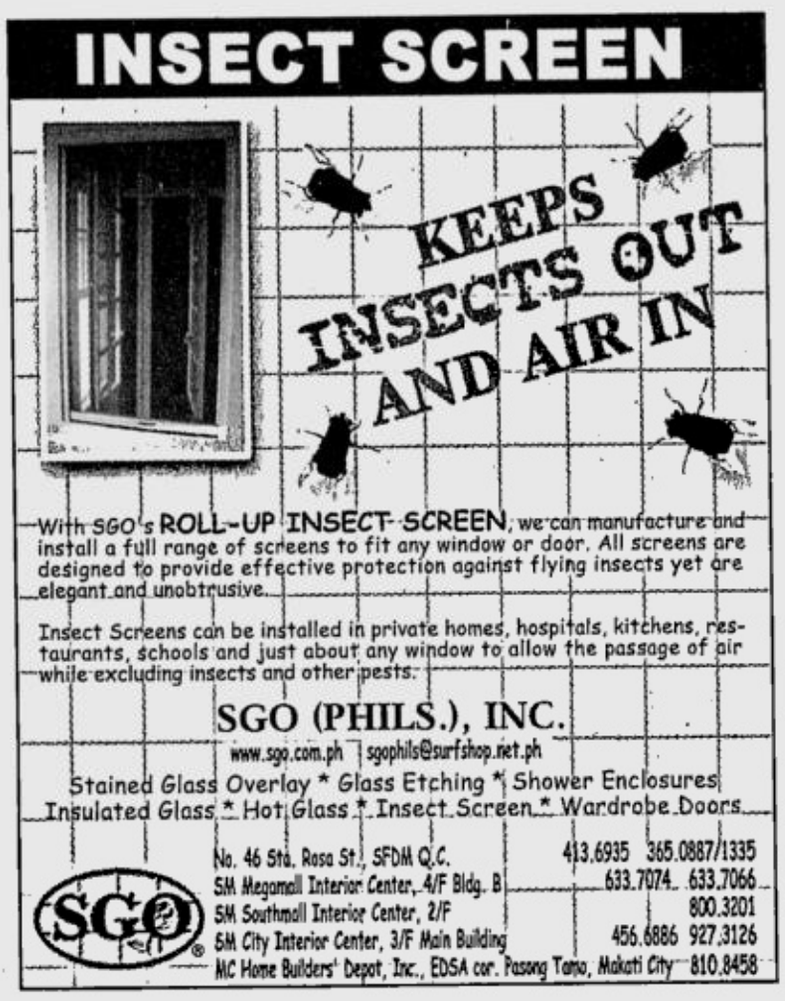
Fina Daulat, who has lived along the PNR tracks for more than 25 years, said she welcomed the planned lease contract.

House owners along the train tracks need the lease agreement for their transaction with other government and public offices, she added.

Her neighbors shared all her sentiments.

Malite asked the provincial council to invite the PNR general manager to shed light on the issue.

INSECT SCREEN



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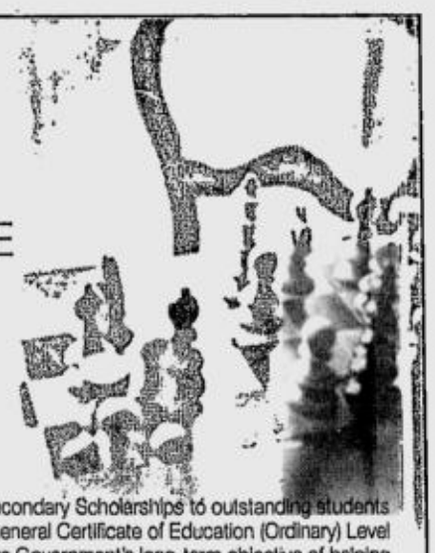
THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT'S ASEAN SECONDARY THREE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE PHILIPPINES

in support of human resource development for Filipino youths



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WHO CAN APPLY
Applicants must :
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A good record of participation in co-curricular activities could be an advantage.

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- Return economy air passage to and from Singapore at the start and end of the scholarship term
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APPLICATION
Application forms with more details on the scholarship can be obtained from the following addresses :

Embassy of the Republic of Singapore
35th Floor, Tower 1, The Enterprise Center
6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas
Makati City, Metro-Manila, The Philippines

Or

Ministry of Education
School Placement and Scholarships Branch
Scholarships Section
3rd Level Podium Block
1 North Buona Vista Drive
Singapore 138675

Request for application forms by post from the Singapore Embassy must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope (at least 16cm x 23cm). The envelopes should be marked 'ASEAN SECONDARY THREE SCHOLARSHIPS' at the top left hand corner.

THERE IS NO BOND ATTACHED TO THE SCHOLARSHIP.

CLOSING DATE

Completed application forms, together with relevant supporting documents must reach either the Singapore Ministry of Education or the Singapore Embassy in Manila at the respective addresses given above, by 15 July 2002.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to sit for a selection test in August and attend an interview in September 2002. Successful candidates will arrive in Singapore in October/November to attend a bridging course in English & Mathematics before joining Singapore schools in January 2003.

For more information on the scholarship and education in Singapore, please visit our website at: www1.moe.edu.sg.

Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

ASEAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Ministry of Education, Singapore

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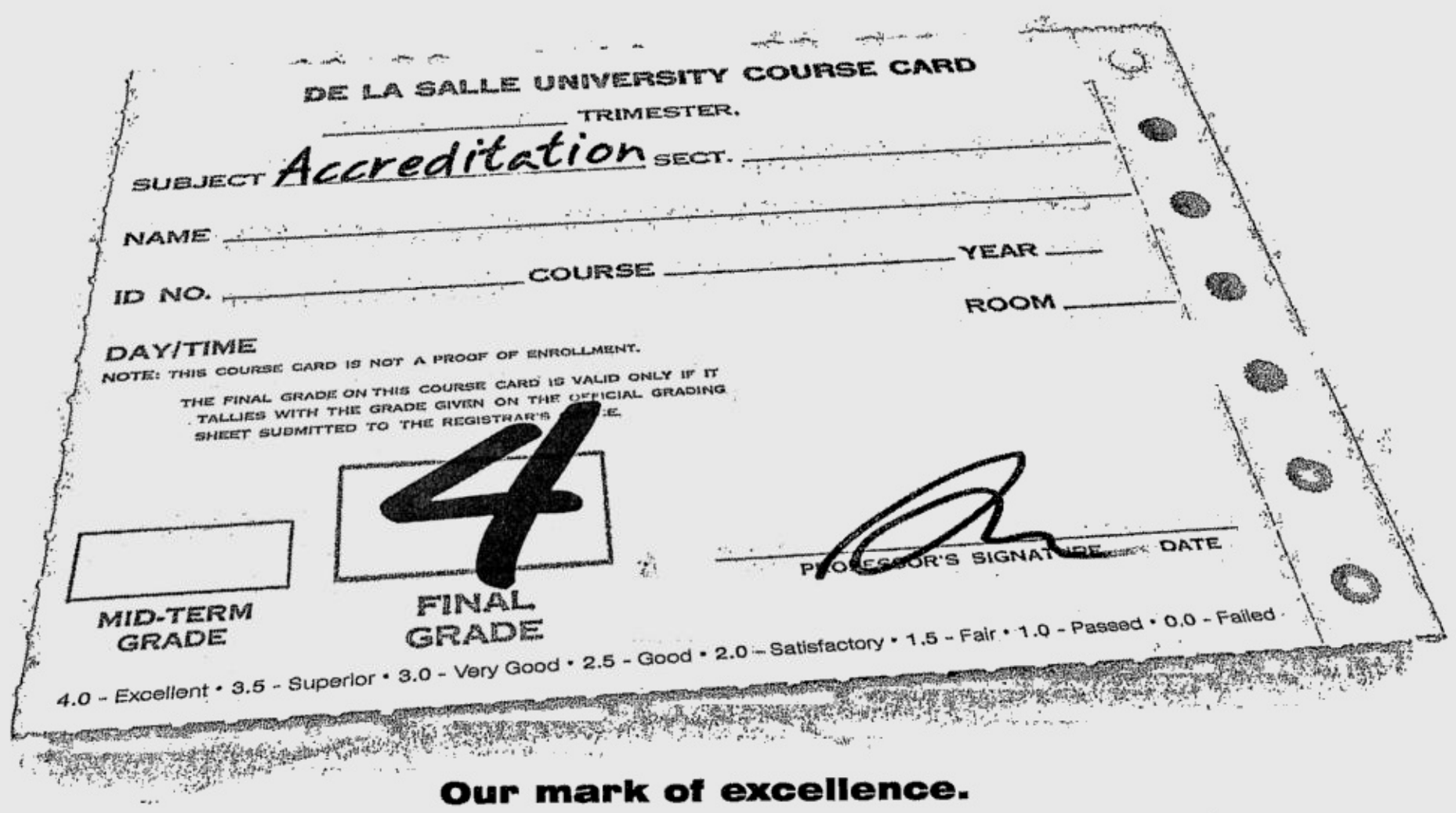

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INQUIRER Mindanao
Editor Jun Bandayrel • Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Lumads seize higher education

By Tiffany Tan

ETTOK Umpan (center) and other lumad scholars create pottery during a workshop. TERENCE ANG

BINANGAY bananas kept 10-year-old Ettok Umpan well-stocked in school. The eighth in a brood of eleven, his family could barely afford three meals a day, much less school supplies for the third grader. But ever enterprising and determined to receive formal education, the Obo Manobo boy picked ripe bananas from his backyard and brought them to school. He offered them to classmates in exchange for paper and pencil. "Barter *ba*," recalls Ettok. "*Minsan, langka naman ang dala ko* (Sometimes, what I bring is jackfruit)."

At 16, he was forced to temporarily quit school. He lived on the slopes of Mt. Apo in Cotabato. The nearest public high school was a three-hour trek away. He said his feet could survive the arduous hike, but not for long on an empty stomach. As part-time laborer in a power plant, he hauled slabs of wood up the steep slopes of Mt. Apo. But an infection of his thigh bone marrow developed. From his hospital bed in Davao City, college education seemed so far away, and death so much nearer.

Stepping stone

Six years later, Ettok is among the 7,000 college students walking the halls of Ateneo de Davao University. He has been accepted as a nursing student and was given free tuition and fees under the Ateneo Muslim Lumad Scholarship Program. Although the young painter-potter-poet hungers to become a visual artist, he believes that a degree in the medical field is the right move to make.

"*Ito na 'yung* stepping stone *na makuha mo 'yung pangarap mo* (This may be the stepping stone to your dreams)," he said. He may even become the first college graduate in his family.

Now, home for him is a modest two-storey affair of wood and cement in Davao City, which he shares with 19 other students in four Davao colleges, 13 of them in Ateneo. Some come from as far as Bukidnon, Agusan, and Cotabato. All are of Lumad ancestry, the collective term for the various non-Muslim indigenous groups of Mindanao. Eight tribes are represented, including the T'duray, Matigsalog, and Diangan.

In this house, shared by 15 young women and five young men, the air is always permeated by music, either from the radio, the guitar, or a voice singing. There is no television to watch, so the students spend their spare time on endless games of scrabble, swapping jokes, and telling tales of joy and sorrow. Everyone shares in the task of cleaning rooms and bathrooms, buying and cooking food, and washing dishes. Because there are not enough clotheslines for the entire household, there is always a mad scramble for them during laundry day.

Self-sufficiency

Every evening, two scholars go to Matina Town Square, a local entertainment hub, to tend to a shop called *MindanaWon*. The merchandise there range from beaded bracelets to bottled calamansi concentrate, from printed T-shirts to Gary Granada CDs. This store is the students' training ground for self-sufficiency, its name a reminder of the NGO that harnesses their strengths and continues to nurture their growth.

"*Pinagmamalaki ko na naging parte ako ng MindanaWon* (I am proud to be part of MindanaWon)," says Jessie John Madanlo, a 16-year-old Mandaya from Davao Oriental. "*Natulungan nila ako, talagang iisipin ko kung paano rin ako makakatulong dahil hinanapan talaga nila ng paraan para makapasok ako sa Ateneo.* (They have helped me and I will really think of how I can help since they really looked for a way so that I can enter Ateneo)," he said.

Jessie John's family did not have enough money to pay for his daily expenses even if his college tuition and fees were free. His mother is a public school teacher moonlighting as a photographer while coping with migraine. His father has long been out of job because of severe arthritis. *MindanaWon* took Jessie John under its wing.

MindanaWon developed its scholarship program specifically so that Lumad scholars like Ettok and Jessie John may be guided in their college education. It provides them with shelter, food, books, and school uniforms. Their diploma will be their ticket to doors closed as yet to many Lumads. It will also be their bullhorn so that mainstream society will listen to what they have to say in behalf of the indigenous peoples of Mindanao.

Hope

"*Malaki'ng nawawala sa lipunan kapag may isang grupo ng mga tao na may sariling sistema ng etika, hustisya, at pangangalaga sa kalikasan na hindi napakikinggan.* (Much is lost in society if a group of people with its own system of ethics, justice and nurturing of the environment is not listened to)," says Fr. Albert Alejo, a social-anthropologist and executive director of *MindanaWon*.

The Jesuit priest strongly believes that "higher education, despite its ambiguous record of usefulness, remains a hope for the young Lumads who wish to serve their communities as professionals."

Perhaps it is because this goes beyond the usual "quick response" type of assistance given to them by society. There is no shortcut.

But college education comes at a great cost, especially if living expenses are added, and the sum multiplied by 20.

"Each scholar requires P20,000 per semester," says *MindanaWon* administrative officer Perpy Tio. Keeping the NGO's coffers filled is a daily challenge, but *MindanaWon* promises to be in for the long haul.

The scholars themselves are a constant source of hope and encouragement for everyone involved in *MindanaWon*'s struggle for cultural regeneration in this strife-filled country.

***Tiffany Tan** is a volunteer of MindanaWon. For inquiries, please write to* paringbert@yahoo.com

ANOTHER dugong killing COURTESY OF CERD

Killing of dugongs continue

By Ramon Jorge Sarabosing
Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur

IF the Philippine eagle is to the forest of Mindanao, the dugong (sea cow) is to the seas. But while the national bird has a solid conservation program and support, the dugong has none and is left to its own where killing is common as night and day.

On May 26, another dugong was killed, butchered and sold here.

Rowan Byrne, a marine biologist working with a local non-government organization, claimed that a certain policeman named Pepito Orcullo reported that a 100-kilogram dugong was found floating dead inside a fish corral in the waters of Barangay Baculin.

"Nearly every month we get reports of dugongs being trapped in the fish corral and died," Byrne said.

However, he doubts if the dugongs died on its own.

"Most always, if you examine it, there are signs and traces of human brutality."

The dugong is an endangered marine specie and the killing and selling of its meat is prohibited. The recent dugong was said to have been eaten by a few villagers. Some of the meat were brought to Hinatuan and taken to the nearby town of Diatagon and sold for P25 a kilo.

By Byrne's estimate, six baby dugongs and two sub-adult ones were killed in a span of one year.

"Local and regional authorities must do something about it. Fish corrals must be licensed and regulated."

The dugongs play an important role in the marine ecosystem as they help reproduce fish population in Hinatuan Bay.

The sightings and killings of dugongs always coincide with the full moon period.

Byrne believes this is the time when the mammal is most active. The tides are highest and shallow feeding areas composed of sea grass are accessible.

Byrne sees the immediate need to save and protect the helpless mammal, and urges a concerted effort of the authorities, private and public sectors.

"We are running out of time, if there is no action taken as soon as possible, we may be losing the dugong before we know it," said Byrne.

To rally for the dugong's cause, Byrne is inviting the public to communicate through this email address: dugongresearch@yahoo.com for possible assistance.

Burnham-Yap tragedy—victims of chance encounter?

KUSOG

Fr. Eliseo Mercado, OMI

THERE are two statements that describe the tragedy. The first is "the victims are dead" (Gracia survived by God's miracle overpowering the heavy exchange of fire and through the heroic body cover provided by her husband.) The second is "the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers were able to escape again for the nth time."

What really happened in that mythical Burnham rescue operation would remain a mystery and a puzzle as well. The Armed Forces of the Philippines and their American "advisers" were dead sure that the Burnhams and their Abu Sayyaf captors were in Basilan—"holed up and nowhere to go."

Frustration was reaching fever peak as May 27 neared (the first year anniversary of the Dos Palmas kidnapping) with the AFP and the US forces (with all their sophisticated technology) not knowing the head or tail of the Abu Sayyaf. And frustration was giving way to utter disappointment as the air of July began to be felt (the sixth month of the presence of the much-taunted American Special Forces).

At the start of the American participation in the "war against terror" in the Southern Philippines, people believed that the days of the Abu Sayyaf were indeed numbered. But days became weeks and weeks became months and still not a trace of the Burnhams and their Abu Sayyaf captors.

Following the controversial "release" of the kidnapped Italian priest Fr. Guiseppe Pierantoni, rumors of negotiations for the release of the Burnhams and Filipina nurse Ediborah Yap became the buzz of the grapevine communication system. There were allegations that $200,000 were paid to simply establish the authenticity and seriousness of the negotiations. Down south, the going prices are $1 million per for foreign nationals and P10 million per for "natives." Once the authenticity was established sometime in the middle of March, the bargaining began.

When I was interviewed by Voice of America (VOA) sometime in early May, I already said over the air that the release was almost a certainty before July. Again rumors had it that $2 million was agreed for the safe release of the Burnhams and Yap. Talks of payment of $1 million as first tranche began to float around. It was upon hearing such talks that I had shared the belief (including to the VOA but refusing to be quoted) that the victims had already moved from Basilan to the mainland. This belief was based on the assumption that if the negotiations and payments were already made, the "deliverables" (kidnap victims) could be released when full payment is effected. This would not be possible in Basilan with more than 10,000 troops, more than 400 American Special Forces and with all their gadgets and technology covering all the movements in land, sea, air and space.

At all costs, there must be face-saving solutions to the Burnham-Yap kidnapping before July 2002, or else the modern technology, the 400 or so American Special Forces and the entire AFP would be the laughing stock of the whole nation, particularly by the anti-Balikatan movement already labeled as "Abu Sayyaf lovers."

It was not the face of the AFP (since it has very little or none whatsoever left to save) that needs saving but the face of the American Special Forces, the "success" of the Balikatan exercises and the global war "against terror."

Then came the Sirawai (Zamboanga del Norte) tragedy.

There are hundreds of stories floating in the air. The most credible was the fact that it was indeed a chance encounter between the AFP Scout Rangers tasked to track down the Pierantoni kidnappers and armed group that later turned out to be Abu Sabaya's group.

The Pierantoni kidnappers were long gone from the place and perhaps too occupied with spending their P10-million loot. It was Abu Sabaya and his small band that were stationed there with the victims while waiting for the final payment of another $1 million prior to the release of the victims.

The Scout Rangers attacked what they thought to be the Pentagon kidnappers of the Italian priest. Only when the firefight ended and after the Scout Rangers surveyed the ground did they discover that they accidentally stumbled upon Abu Sabaya's group.

It was rumored that the Scout Rangers frantically called their higher ups for "guidance." This marks the real beginning of a creative writing and imaginative storytelling. The rest is history. The real problem begins when by constantly repeating the story we want to believe, we no longer can distinguish between what is make-believe and what is the real story. Yes, the sorry state happens when we begin believing our own propaganda!

Who is telling the truth? Dead people tell no tales. Is it the official AFP version or the people who continue to speak in murmurs under the shadow of fear? It would be interesting, however, to know how long had the Burnhams been in the mainland. The grapevine had it that the initial payments were made in the mainland two weeks before this tragedy. God forbid, yet another Congressional investigation. Spare us O Lord! Our people want a happy ending. All is well when all ends well! We want to believe that it all ends well after all. We have a new heroine. Meanwhile, we can momentarily sleep well. Until the next episode.

Fil-American celebrities pitch for RP war vets

From page A1

"Courage Under Fire," and Columbia TriStar senior vice president Fritz Friedman who are both ardent supporters of the Filipino war veterans' cause.

Last Wednesday, Phillips and Friedman testified during a two-and-a-half-hour congressional subcommittee hearing, urging the speedy passage of benefits legislation for the veterans.

Both men are of Filipino ancestry.

Phillips was born in Zambales; his mother is a Filipina. Friedman was born in Manila; his mother is a Filipina, his father a Filipino-Austrian.

The hearing, which started at 3 p.m., was called by the subcommittee on health of the veterans affairs committee. Before that day, the last hearing on a veterans benefits bill was held on July 22, 1998.

Friedman told the INQUIRER that movie star Tia Carerre, who has Filipino blood, and Rob Schneider of "Saturday Night Live," who is half-Filipino, wanted to join Phillips but couldn't clear their schedules in time.

Instead, Phillips, who was wearing a powder blue shirt and dark suit, began his testimony with a four-minute video presentation featuring him and Schneider.

Privilege

"I consider it not only my privilege but also my duty to speak for the Filipino veterans of World War II," said a somber-looking Phillips.

"Many of these men are well into their 80s and beyond. They are now certainly in need of the kind of medical attention that the Veterans Administration would provide."

"But, perhaps, even more importantly, they desire as their last wish the recognition that they so richly deserve for the sacrifices that they made in the fight for freedom and democracy," he said.

Phillips has five uncles who served in the US navy and a stepfather who served in Vietnam who named him after Gunnery Sergeant Lew Diamond, a marine hero in the Pacific war.

Phillips was invited to the hearing by Rep. Bob Filner, (Democrat-California), principal sponsor of a compromise bill rushed last Tuesday, House Resolution (HR) 4904, the "Health Care for Filipino World War II Veterans Act."

"Celebrities draw attention to important issues, and I'm sure Lou's advocacy will help boost our efforts on behalf of the Filipino veterans," Filner told the INQUIRER.

Hillary, too

On Wednesday morning, Filner accompanied Phillips to appeal before New York Sen. Hillary Clinton, Minnesota Sen. Paul Wellstone, and other lawmakers in the Capitol's dining facility.

First to testify during the hearing in the afternoon was Philippine ambassador to Washington Albert del Rosario.

"It was an act of Congress that trivialized these veterans' contributions and deprived them of their due. It is appropriate therefore that Congress act to address this injustice," Del Rosario told the legislators.

"There are fewer Filipino World War II veterans every day. You are in a position to ensure that their last days be comfortable and that they die with dignity. Please keep faith with them. They deserve no less," he pleaded.

Patrick Ganio, a Purple Heart recipient and national president of the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans, spoke on behalf of the veterans, more than 20 of whom came from New Jersey, Philadelphia and California in a show of solidarity.

While he thanked legislators for their support, Ganio noted that the United States seemed reluctant to release appropriations for the veterans.

"The naturalization benefit for Filipino WWII veterans was readily approved because it required no appropriation. The Special Veterans Benefits (Supplemental Security Income, or SSI) was approved to save 25 percent from the social security income (the veterans) were enjoying," Ganio said.

He was referring to the Immigration Act of 1990, which enabled veterans to enjoy benefits by becoming US citizens. The SSI law allowed veterans to return to the Philippines but they could keep only 75 percent of their monthly welfare benefit of $350 and above.

3 vets bills

Currently, there are three pending bills seeking to amend the Rescission Act of 1946, which continued service-connected death and disability benefits after the war but stopped such benefits for those who were not killed or injured in battle. In effect, it withheld official recognition of the veterans' military service.

HR 4904, the compromise health care bill rushed last Tuesday, was met with dismay by advocates and Philippine congressional delegation because, once again, it only provided benefits only for US-based Filipino veterans.

The bill seeks to expand health coverage for New Philippine Scouts (those who enlisted starting Oct. 6, 1945), double the disability and indemnity compensation for widows, and provide burial benefits.

HR 491, "The Filipino Veterans Equity Act," would grant benefits to all Filipino WW II veterans, regardless of their citizenship and country of residence. The Philippine congressional delegation prefers this bill.

The delegation is composed of La Union Rep. Tomas Dumpit, chair of the House of Representatives veterans affairs committee, Zambales Rep. James Gordon, Bataan Rep. Antonino Roman, Philippine Veterans Affairs Office administrator Artemio Arugay, and retired Col. Emmanuel de Ocampo, president of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines.

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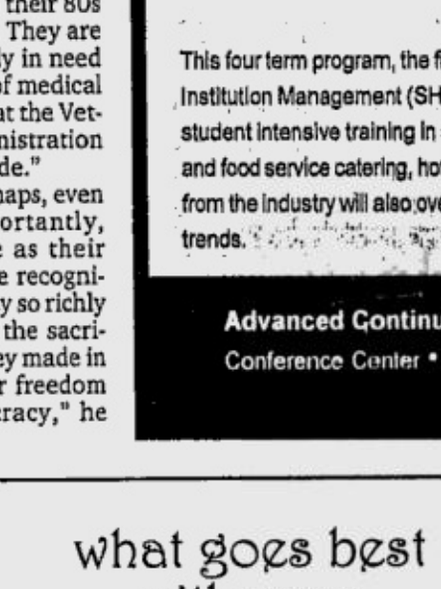

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PALLBEARERS carry the casket of Martin Burnham from the Central Christian Church in Wichita, Kansas Friday after a memorial service. AP

Burnham buried . . .

From page A1

said Senator Brownback (Representative, Kansas). "It's a sorrowful day but it's also a day of recognition."

The Abu Sayyaf held Yap and the Burnhams captive for more than a year.

Gracia returned home to Rose Hill last Monday. Yap was buried Friday in Basilan, her white wooden coffin carried to the grave by four US soldiers.

Man for others

The Rev. Clay Bowlin, a Kansas City pastor whom Burnham had requested to deliver the funeral sermon should he die as a hostage, recounted their time as Bible college students and Burnham's career as a missionary pilot.

"Lord, 23 years ago, when my brother and I were in college together, You were with us then, and You're with us now," Bowlin said. "His great gift was for encouragement. He put others in front of himself."

Jacobsen recalled Burnham as "kind and gentle, but he was no weak person."

"He always took time to hike to missionaries' homes, even though it was often quite a distance, to spend some time with them," Jacobsen said, adding:

"He was not only one of the best pilots in the New Tribes Mission, but one of the best test pilots as well. He was of great expertise and professionalism, but of great humility and sacrifice as he was willing to move from place to place to help others."

The mission leader also said: "We thank God Gracia was spared, and is able to be in our midst. And at the same time we mourn the loss of Martin."

Real people

Bob Dole, a former Kansas senator and Republican presidential candidate, spoke with reporters after attending the service.

"It's hard to imagine what (the Burnhams have) gone through in the past year," Dole said. "They were real people who believed in what they were doing, and they gave their life for it."

The Burnhams worked as missionaries in the Philippines starting in 1986. They were kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf on May 27 last year from a resort in Palawan as they celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary.

The US government has linked the Abu Sayyaf to the al-Qaida terrorist network. ***Reports from Inquirer wires***

Padre Pio canonized today

From page A1

Padre Pio centers all over the world, but the highlight will be the canonization Mass which will be broadcast live from Rome (carried domestically by Destiny Channel 51 and SkyCable's Channel 49).

Final miracle

Two years ago, the miraculous healing through Padre Pio's intercession of a young boy suffering from multiple organ failure was the final step in the process of proclaiming his sainthood. The boy, 8-year-old Matteo Colella, will receive his First Communion at the Mass today from John Paul II, who is himself well-acquainted with Padre Pio's extraordinary gifts.

In 1962, Karol Wojtyla, then archbishop of Krakow, Poland, asked Padre Pio to pray for his friend Wanda Poltawska, a Polish psychiatrist who was seriously afflicted with a throat tumor.

She recovered, and much later, in May 1999, attended the priest's beatification, celebrated by the former archbishop, now Pope John Paul II.

The great light

Padre Pio was born on May 25, 1887 in the farming village of Pietrelcina. He was named Francesco after the great Christian mystic, St. Francis of Assisi.

At the age of 16, Francesco Forgione joined the Capuchin monastic order, taking the name Pio di Pietrelcina, and thus began his journey as a "credible sign of Christ," according to the Vatican decree on his virtues.

Padre Pio first came to international attention during World War II when the Allied forces were carpet-bombing parts of Italy to flush out the Nazis. The pilots who had been given orders to bomb the area of San Giovanni Rotondo returned to their air base. They testified seeing Padre Pio alongside their planes, "standing in the air with his arms outstretched," effectively preventing them from carrying out their orders.

Bernard Ruffin, an initially skeptical Protestant minister and author of the book " Padre Pio: A True Story," said the accounts and sightings were "too frequent and the reports came from too many sources to be totally discounted."

More than these, however, Padre Pio came to be renowned and recognized as the first Roman Catholic priest to visibly bear the Stigmata, bleeding from openings on his body that corresponded to the wounds Christ is believed to have suffered during his crucifixion.

The stigmata

On Sept. 20, 1918, while in the choir loft of the Capuchin friary in San Giovanni Rotondo, Padre Pio, "(yielding) to a drowsiness similar to a sweet sleep," saw a vision of a "mysterious person."

When the vision disappeared, Padre Pio experienced a great "agony," and thereafter saw his hands, feet and side dripping with blood.

For 50 years after that, until just before he died at 81 on Sept. 23, 1968, when the wounds miraculously disappeared, Padre Pio suffered and bled daily.

He wrote to his spiritual director thus: "The heart wound bleeds continually, especially from Thursday evening until Saturday. Dear Father, I am dying of pain because of the wounds and the resulting embarrassment I feel in my soul."

Teams of medical specialists from all over world subjected him again and again to what were certainly painful examinations. The results were always the same: there was no medical or scientific explanation or even a natural cause for the marks of the Crucified Christ on his person.

The wounds were deep and yet never became infected. The ones on the hands and feet were "the size of pennies" and went through to the other side. He was said to have lost half a cup of blood each day, yet miraculously never needed a blood transfusion.

Disapproval and skepticism

Although the Church recognizes the phenomenon of the stigmata, it does not oblige the faithful to accept it as dogma or doctrinal fact. Indeed, the Church is very exacting in its conditions for recognizing its validity.

Padre Pio's popularity and the legend of the stigmata were often to draw the Church's disapproval.

An official Vatican decree in 1923 sanctioned him by forcing him to stay in San Giovanni Rotondo for 10 years.

Further constraints were placed on him from 1956 to 1962, when microphones were placed in his confessional.

Pope Paul VI placed an end to Padre Pio's supervision and confinement, but many critics within the Church remain deeply skeptical of his stigmata.

Although Pope John Paul II had asked the saintly priest to heal his friend, the Pontiff has officially denied rumors that Padre Pio had predicted his election as well as his attempted assassination in 1981.

But the most common cause of disapproval from Rome came simply from Padre Pio's massive popularity.

His tiny village of San Giovanni is today a town of 26,000 inhabitants, turning out souvenirs for pilgrims that generate millions of euros annually.

A multitude of websites is dedicated to the saint who died in 1968 at 81.

The shrine

Visited annually by some 8 million pilgrims, the mountainous town of San Giovanni Rotondo is said to have overtaken Lourdes as the top pilgrimage site for Catholics.

The 1,500-bed hospital established by Padre Pio is now a modern institution staffed by international medical specialists, some of whom have volunteered their services after having been touched by the saintly priest.

The friary has finally put up a museum, and a diorama has been set up at the side of the shrine. There is a Reading Center as well, collecting virtually everything that has been written about Padre Pio from 1919 to the present.

At the center of every pilgrimage to this sanctuary is the chance to pray at Padre Pio's crypt and to view the tiny cell in which he lived and died.

The cell and much of what it contains is protected by plexiglass. His frayed sandals, a size 9, stained by the blood from his wounds, are encased in the center of the room. A crucifix hangs on the wall above his cot. His fellow monks were said to have frequently changed the sheets which were stained with blood.

In the downstairs museum, one of his nightshirts, faded and bloodstained, is encased in glass. The friars had found this nightshirt rolled into a ball and hidden under a corner of his cot.

To the right of the cot is a tiny window from which he would wave to the people who would wait outside in the early morning or evening for his blessing.

Above a small table are hung faded photos of his home in Pietrelcina, and of his mother and father.

Padre Pio died in his armchair on Sept. 22, 1968, having prophesied his own death exactly nine years before.

"At about 1 a.m. the following morning, Padre Pio rang the little bell beside him. He was seated in an armchair dressed in his Franciscan habit. His superior sent immediately for the doctor. Padre Pio went to confession. His Capuchin brothers administered the last rites. He renewed his Franciscan vows. His rosary was in his hands as it always was. He fingered the beads. He was unable to say the Hail Mary, but he repeated over and over again the names Jesus and Maria. At about 2:30 a.m., he opened his eyes very wide and said: 'I see two mothers.' As he exhaled his last breath, he whispered 'Maria.'"

His superior said that his head fell gently to his chest and that "he died like a little bird."

It is reported that when the doctors examined him, they saw that the wounds had disappeared without any sign of a scar. They found his body had not a drop of blood left in it.

He had literally "spilled it out" in imitation of Christ. ***With a report from AFP***

Ed-Loren in 2004 eyed

From page A1

possibility of an Angara-Legarda ticket in 2004, she said this was "pure speculation."

"In the face of our pressing national problems, it is inappropriate, even deplorable, to be discussing politics at this time," she said.

Angara was similarly evasive when sought for comment.

"I'm complimented to be associated with Loren, a very talented, very competent and focused public servant," he told the INQUIRER.

He added, however, that he was "not even thinking of 2004, honestly," and that "the time is not yet ripe."

But Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar, speaking by phone from Rome, said it was "logical" for Legarda to end up with the opposition because she needed the LDP machinery that she would not get from Lakas.

Asked if he thought Legarda would run for vice president, Villar said: "No, she wants to run for president, but not in 2004."

"But right now," he said, "I think it's logical for her to run for vice president. She's ambitious and if there's a chance, she'll go for it."

Assurance

Claudio said some senators were "trying to get in touch" with the President yesterday morning but that she was in Daet, Camarines Norte, for the Pineapple Festival.

"I presume by now *nagkausap na sila* (they have talked)," he told the INQUIRER in the afternoon.

Claudio said he got the same assurance from Senators Juan Flavier and Robert Barbers, who were earlier quoted as saying that they now recognize that the opposition bloc had the majority.

"We are sufficiently assured by the senators themselves that their statements were maybe taken out of context," he said.

Asked if the senators in question had assured Malacañang that they were not jumping ship or were open to a "working coalition" with the opposition, Claudio quickly said: "Of course, of course."

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr., quoting Claudio, blamed the media for supposedly getting the story wrong.

"I have been informed by Secretary Gabby Claudio that the reported partisan movements in the Senate are *kuryente* (false reports). He is monitoring these reports for the President, who is taking these in stride," Afable said in a statement.

In a phone interview with reporters, Afable said he had spoken with Claudio, who had talked with the senators, "and they denied that they are transferring to the opposition or that they are recognizing the 'new majority.'"

Afable also said Ms Macapagal was "not bothered by such contrived partisan reports."

Claudio said the senators' perceived conciliatory statements were part of the two camps' declaration of a ceasefire.

"Personally, I don't find (these statements) inconsistent with the principle that both blocs have agreed upon—to keep a ceasefire and reach out in the spirit of reconciliation and collegiality for the good of the country," he said.

Political realities

Villar said his colleagues in the Senate should not be surprised about reports of other senators jumping ship because this was part of political realities.

"Among us politicians, these things come and go," he said. "I'm no longer surprised (or) amused. As a former speaker of the House, I've been admired and betrayed. I have experienced the worst. So I just watch them when they fight in the session hall of the Senate."

Drilon said Barbers and Flavier had reaffirmed their unwavering support and loyalty to the administration coalition.

"There are no cracks in the administration bloc," Drilon insisted. "No one is jumping ship because each of us deeply believes in the correctness and justness of our cause."

Sen. Renato Cayetano likewise said both Barbers and Flavier had corrected reports about their supposed change of stand.

"Senator Flavier said he told the reporters that he would recognize the new majority if (its) sessions and takeover were legal," Cayetano said. "Flavier said that since he is not a lawyer, he put the word 'if,' which the reporters ignored."

Cayetano also said Legarda might have been offered the slot of vice president, or even president, in exchange for her supposed "working arrangement" with the opposition.

"She was offered something we could not offer and, of course, this is either the presidential or vice presidential position," he said.

Cayetano said he was surprised by Legarda's supposed turnaround. He said there was no hint of it when they talked the other day.

In fact, he said, Legarda sounded very disappointed and upset with the Angara bloc for the takeover of committee chairmanships in the Senate and for conducting an illegal session last June 3.

"So I guess it was really an offer that we could not match because this is beyond us to do," he said.

Cayetano added that he agreed with the observation of another senator from the administration coalition that "Loren's heart belongs to Angara."

Another senator who asked not to be named called Legarda the "majority-minority" floor leader.

Soul mate

But Drilon said that over the past several months, Legarda had become his "soul mate" in the Senate.

"Together we have worked very hard in pushing the legislative agenda of the administration and in resolving conflicts among our colleagues. I find no reason to doubt her loyalty to the Senate leadership," he said.

Villar said, however, that anything was possible in politics. He said an Angara-Legarda tandem would not be surprising and might even be good because Angara was very organized and Legarda was popular.

He also noted that it might not look good or be politically correct to have two women—meaning Ms Macapagal and Legarda—running for the two top posts in 2004.

But Legarda said she had not discussed such a scenario with Angara or any other leader of the opposition.

"Such talks are being fanned by people who wish to sow discord within the administration party," she said in a statement.

"While I understand the desire of some political groups to entice me to their side, I see no reason for me to turn my back on my party mates and my colleagues in the administration bloc in the Senate," she added.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan said he had no inkling that Legarda would change her tune because they had all agreed to discuss their positions as a group.

"It's too early to talk about (the Angara-Legarda tandem), and I hope it isn't true," he said. "As for me, I do not equate a working Senate with 'sleeping with the enemy.'"

Senators' tug-of-war worries IMF

By Juliet L. Javellana

INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund officials are concerned about the power struggle in the Senate because it has affected the passage of important economic measures, according to Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

De Venecia said he met Friday morning with Sean Nolan, senior IMF resident representative in the country; Joshua Felman, IMF division chief for Asia-Pacific; and economists Christoph Duenwald and Bas Bakker.

"I told them we are searching for a solution in the Senate before July 22," he said, referring to the opening of the second regular session of the 12th Congress.

De Venecia said the IMF team was concerned about the non-passage of the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle Act (Spav), the Securitization Act, and the bill creating the National Transmission Co. (Transco), a component of the privatization of the National Power Corp.

The Spav and securitization bills have been approved in the House. These had yet to hurdle even the committee level in the Senate when a power play resulted in the sine die adjournment of the chamber three days ahead of schedule last week.

De Venecia said the two proposed measures could help tap some $4 billion worth of non-performing assets for the economy.

He said the privatization of Transco could help raise $2billion to $4 billion to finance the debts of the Napocor and thus help in the lowering of the purchased power adjustment charged to electric users.

De Venecia said he had assured the IMF team that while a solution was being worked out in the Senate, the government would implement "a series of strong executive actions" to improve tax collection and to manage the budget deficit.

He said he relayed the IMF team's concern to President Macapagal-Arroyo after the meeting.

"She's hoping that we could implement some of the IMF recommendations," he said.

He raised the need for a "selective revamp" at the Bureau of Internal Revenue by bringing "new blood" into the revenue bureaucracy, as done to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in the mid-1990s.

De Venecia, however, said the IMF team remained bullish about the President's leadership.

"She is the only practicing economist among the heads of state in Asia," he pointed out.

WORLD CUP

Germany, England in q'finals

SEOGWIPO, South Korea—Germany advanced to the World Cup quarterfinals after Oliver Neuville scored an 88th-minute goal to hand the three-time world champions a 1-0 win over Paraguay on Saturday.

Neuville swept in a half-volley from six meters (yards) after Bernd Schnieder broke down the right flank and sent in a perfect cross.

Germany now faces Mexico or the United States in the quarterfinals on Friday in Ulsan, South Korea.

Asked if he had believed at the time of the goal that Germany would get away with a victory, Neuville said: "In the second half, yes, they (Paraguay) were just playing for a draw."

Paraguay's Italian coach Cesare Maldini said after the match he was resigning to return at AC Milan as a scout.

"We've went down like heroes," said Paraguay goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert. "The Germans didn't outplay us, we played them equally. We leave having made our country proud."

"We had chances in the first half but football is like that. The important thing is that we've played well. Germany didn't outplay Paraguay, we played them equally. I hope the best team advances to the finals. Today luck was on Germany's side, they took advantage of the chance they had."

Paraguay ended the game with 10 men after Roberto Acuna was sent off in the 90th minute.

It is the second straight World Cup in which Paraguay has been knocked out on a late goal in the opening game of the second round. Paraguay lost to eventual world champion France in 1998 on a golden goal in its round of 16 match.

Germany has reached the last eight in every World Cup final beginning with 1954.

England 3, Denmark 0

In Niigata, Japan, England, inspired by captain David Beckham, swaggered into the quarterfinals after crushing Denmark 3-0 in a pulsating second round clash.

Striker Michael Owen scored his first goal of the tournament, central defender Rio Ferdinand scored his first goal for England and Emile Heskey added a third as Sven-Goran Eriksson's side tore Denmark's much-vaunted defense to shreds in under 45 minutes.

The comprehensive victory matched England's morale-boosting 1-0 win over archrivals and pre-tournament favorites Argentina in the group stages and sets them up for a quarterfinal against either Brazil or Belgium.

The first half was a nightmare for Denmark, with goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen found wanting on two of the goals and defender Thomas Helveg forced to leave the field with a head injury following Ferdinand's 5th minute goal.

England scored only two goals in their three group games.

AP/Reuters

Rest of round of 16 sked:

June 16, 3:30 p.m.—Sweden vs Senegal; 8:30 p.m.—Spain vs Ireland
June 17, 3:30 p.m.—Mexico vs USA; 8:30 p.m.—Brazil vs Belgium
June 18, 3:30 p.m.—Japan vs Turkey; 8:30 p.m.—Korea vs Italy

ENGLAND captain David Beckham (left) and teammates Rio Ferdinand (5) and Michael Owen celebrate Owen's goal. REUTERS

Karting 5th leg slated

YOUNG karters led by M&M Racing's Michelle Bumgarner and Edgesports-Castrol's Arvin Drueco hope to continue their streak as the 2002 Shell Karting Super Series stages its fifth leg on June 22-23 at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

Bumgarner eyes her fourth straight win in the Zed KT Juniors class over Matteo Guidicellie and Edgesort's Mica Anton in the event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Casino Filipino, Bridgestone, Zed, Nokia, and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through general manager Ver Angelo.

Drueco, on the other hand, tries to pull another upset against more favored rivals in the Intercon-A class. In the last leg, he was then running sixth after the first turn of the final heat but slowly inched his way up, negotiating the 12th lap in 43.680 for the rousing win over teammate Ryan Francisco, Kart 1's Dado Pena, Edgesports teammate Jeremy Marquez, Batsy Agabao and Mandy Borja.

"We expect more upsets in this leg as other karters will try to catch up with the standings and intensify their campaign for the titles at stake," said Carmona Circuit Philippines project director Lot M. Tan.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Hercules 2. Victory Lap 3. Time Essential
Race 2—1. I Love You 2. Windy City 3. Brazen Truth 4. Tumatagínting/Kay Gee Em Ey
Race 3—1. Precious Time 2. Cash McCall 3. Green Leaves 4. Primero de Mayo
Race 4—1. Miss Anapat 2. Entracte 3. Pick Me to Fly 4. Strawberry Hope
Race 5—1. Latin Beat 2. Speed Master 3. Renowned 4. Gold Pyramid 5. Diamond's Dollar
Race 6—1. Jade Louise 2. Sheba's Dream 3. Astuce
Race 7—1. Romario 2. Sand Splash 3. Don't Tell Me 4. Carolina Belle 5. Kentucky News
Race 8—1. Batangas Entry 2. Wind Blown
Race 9—1. Real Charm 2. Paycheck 3. Pride of Mandaue 4. Jessie James
Race 10—1. Perfect Lyza 2. Marginal Note 3. Centennial/Turbo Carera 4. Ground Fighter 5. Trick Shot
Race 11—1. Hitman 2. Search for Gold 3. Meal Ticket
Race 12—1. Tatler Cover 2. Might and Power 3. Borderline 4. High and Mighty 5. Golden Quest
Race 13—1. Party Princess 2. Epic Energy 3. Strong Bird 4. Tawagin Mo Na 5. Aprey's Choice
Race 14—1. Adam's Call 2. Sham Sham 3. Southern Skies 4. Expediter 5. Thunder Strike 6. Hello Paul

Mikey on the go

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

TRUE to its promise, the Klub Don Juan de Manila resumed its vigorous drive to conduct medical missions for the needy members of the various horse racing sectors.

Yesterday, the group was at the Manila Jockey Club and no less than one of its prime movers, Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, was on hand to do his share in the proceedings.

Mikey mingled generously with the huge crowd as if they were his constituents in Pampanga where he currently serves as vice governor.

"This is what I like best. *Makisalamuha sa mga tao at alamin ang kalagayan nila*," said the 33-year-old presidential son as he watches the Klub's battery of doctors and nurses attend to the happy lot at the MJC.

Being an active member of Klub Don Juan de Manila and a busy vice gov of Pampanga are not the only things which make Mikey on the go these days.

Of course, Mikey is also looking forward to a very important date in his life—June 24—when he weds Ma. Angela Montenegro at the St. Augustine Church in Lubao, Pampanga.

According to my Silip Boy, Mikey wants to "go to work immediately" after the wedding.

"He's such a workaholic. *Gusto magtrabaho agad pagkatapos ng kasal*," said my Silip Boy.

We also learned that one of Mikey's priorities is to implement in full his Project: MAP (Mikey Against Poverty) 2004.

The project is aimed to fight poverty in Pampanga because Mikey, added my Silip Boy, wants his *cabalens* to participate in the task of nation building.

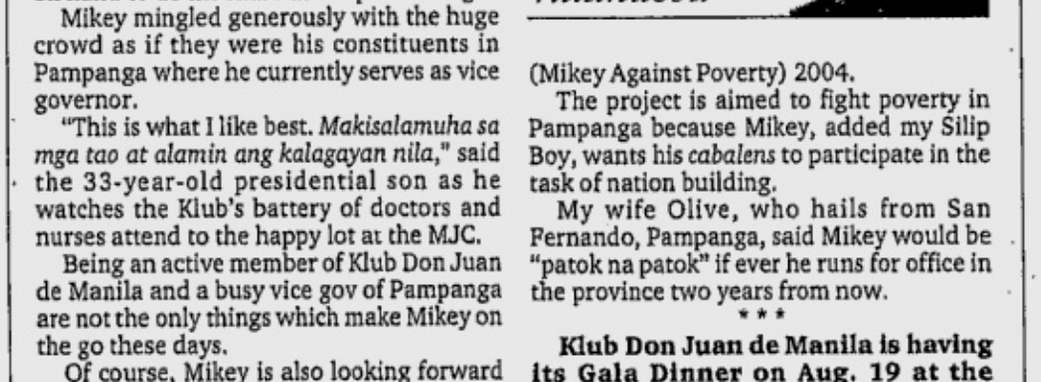
My wife Olive, who hails from San Fernando, Pampanga, said Mikey would be "patok na patok" if ever he runs for office in the province two years from now.

* * *

Klub Don Juan de Manila is having its Gala Dinner on Aug. 19 at the Shangri-La Makati.

The affair serves as prelude to the Klub's major undertaking on Aug. 25—staging four major races on Grand Derby Day.

Serving as highlight on that day is the Don Juan Derby Open. Also on tap in the multi-million peso racefest are the Don Juan Handicap, Don Juan Oaks and Don Juan Stakes.



RACING GROUP MISSION

Pampanga Vice Gov. Mikey Arroyo, one of the founding members of the horse racing group Klub Don Juan de Manila, attends to children of grooms during the Klub's second medical mission at the Manila Jockey Club compound yesterday.

Wind Blown heads cast

CHAMPION galloper Wind Blown resumes his return to big-time racing when he heads the classy field in the P550,000 Philracom-PRCI Independence Day Stakes Race today at the Santa Ana Park.

ESGUERRA

The top-notch horse owned by sportsman-businessman Hermie Esguerra is coming off an easy wire-to wire victory in an imported group race recently at San Lazaro and has been tagged the early favorite to bag the P400,000 first prize in the event.

Last year's Horse of the Year will have recent Founders' Cup winner Batangas Entry and Commissioners' Cup tormentor Staunch Ally as chief rivals in what could be a preview of this year's open championship derby.

"I hope racing fans will troop to Santa Ana to watch the race. *Magandang karera yan*," said Esguerra.

To be handled by star jockey Fernando Raquel Jr., Wind Blown will carry the top weight of 58 kg. in the 1,600-meter encounter. Lone import Sunny Contender rounds out the lean field of starters.

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From fame to shame

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I GUESS Cassius Casas was content with merely making it to the US Open. Otherwise, he would not have played the way he did.

Look, 82 in the first round, 92 in the second round.

On a good day, Bert Bravo of Caffe Appassionato fame can easily score an 82. On a bad day, Arben Santos of Cinnabon fame can do a 92. On both good and bad days, Benny Gopez of Mizuno fame can make 80 and 90, respectively, using his 300E driver.

I can't believe Casas has done those two forgettable rounds. I surmise those rounds are his worst in memory. Had he done better in the second round, it would have been fine. The 82 would not have hurt. He'd be absolved had he did even-par or better in Round 2.

But no. While that 82 was bad enough, the 92 meant he has no business calling himself a professional golfer.

If Philippine pride got battered black and blue, Philippine golf got pushed back a decade or so.

I can't think of any former Philippine Open champion like Casas scoring embarrassing rounds two in a row. Not even Tino Tugot, even when he was already in his seventies, could have scored such shameful rounds.

You say this is the US Open, where pressure grinds your guts to their tips?

Cut the crap, please.

Golf, as we love to say, is mental. Casas simply lacked the mental toughness to perform on the world stage, where the best of the best fight not really to win but to survive.

Casas will be haunted by this US Open disaster too long he won't even think of going there in the next couple of years or so. I just hope he recovers fast from this nightmare.

Whether he likes it or not, the US Open nightmare transformed Casas from celebrity to obscurity.

They say you need only five minutes to gain celebrity. In Casas' case, his odyssey from fame to shame took all of 48 hours.

Don't get me wrong, fellas.

I love Casas. He is my beloved *compadre*. A son of his is my baptismal godson.

I'm glad my *inaanak* is still too young as to comprehend what happened to his father. Or what his father did to Philippine golf.

And that's putting it mildly.

■

Last Sunday (June 9), Chino Trinidad wrongly announced during his TV coverage of the Pacquiao fight on NBN 4 that that day was Father's Day. As a result, instant fights erupted in many households in the country. Many fathers who heard Chino's announcement got mad at wife and children for forgetting about the occasion designed for fathers of the world.

Because today is the real Father's Day, last Sunday was therefore known as Fighters Day.

Hooray!

US OPEN

Tiger leads field by 3 shots

FARMINGDALE, New York—A monster of a course and wet, miserable conditions were no match for Tiger Woods.

In what was shaping up as another dominant performance in the US Open, Woods squeezed a 2-under 68 out of cold, soggy Bethpage Black on Friday and left everyone else wondering if they'll have to settle for second.

"I'm ecstatic that I'm at the top right now, but there's a long way to go," said Woods, who was at 5-under 135. "I've still got to play hard on the weekend."

Padraig Harrington made sure of that.

The Irishman sloshed along the tiny rivers in the fairways and large puddles on the greens, and matched Woods' 68 to stay three strokes behind.

They were the only two players still under par on the Black Course, which played even longer than its 7,214 yards because of the cool air and spongy fairways.

Still, Woods hasn't looked this sharp and in control of every aspect of his game since Pebble Beach, when he led by six strokes at the halfway point and went on to a 15-stroke victory, the largest in the 142 years of the majors.

Woods is 4-0 when he has the 36-hole lead in majors, and he has won his last 12 tournaments when leading at the halfway point.

"I don't think anybody's going to catch him," Jay Haas said. "I think he's gone for good."

Sergio Garcia wasn't so sure, and suggested Woods got more than his share of breaks.

The rain got worse as the day wore on, and along with a fresh breeze, the Black Course was indeed a brute. Garcia thought there was too much water on the greens and in the fairway for the second round to continue.

"If Tiger Woods would have been out there, it would have been called," he said. "It wasn't easy this morning, but it was almost impossible this afternoon. It's tough to beat a guy when ... he gets breaks and makes putts."

Tom Meeks, the USGA's director of rules and competition, denied the young Spaniard's accusation, though he said there were times that play was close to being called.

"In our opinion, if the golf course is playable, then we can play," he said.

He also denied Woods had an advantage over the other players.

"If you're going to say certain players were under unfair conditions, I think you'd have to say they were all there under unfair conditions," Meeks said.

Woods was the only player among morning starters to shoot par or better. Five players were at par or better in the afternoon.

Garcia had a 74 and was at 142, along with Davis Love III (71), K.J. Choi of South Korea and Jeff Maggert, each with 73.

The cut was at 150, the highest at a U.S. Open since it was 10-over par at Shinnecock Hills in 1986. Among those who no longer have to face the Black were defending champion Retief Goosen and David Duval, who had a triple bogey and a double bogey on his final three holes to miss by one. It was the second straight major that Duval had the weekend off.

Woods had few complaints—especially with the way he finished.

From shaggy rough behind the 17th green, he chopped it to the fringe and watched the ball trickle by the lip of the hole for a tremendous tap-in par. *AP*

WOODS responds to applause after he putted to save par on the ninth green. AFP

Casas dead last

CASSIUS Casas bombed out of the US Open with the worst score of his career on Friday as he carded an embarrassing 22-over-par 94 to finish dead-last at cut-off point in a field of 155 players.

As conditions became tougher, Casas' game burst into total disarray with only a birdie and two pars to show. His nightmarish collapse saw the Filipino pick up two triple-bogeys and an assortment of double-bogeys and bogeys.

Casas opened with an 82 on Thursday and expectations were high that he would charge back to save face after making history as the first Filipino to tee off in the US Open. It never happened.

Delasin at 28th

DOROTHY Delasin slowed down with a 73 and slid down to a tie for 28th after two rounds of the $2.1 million Evian Masters in Evian-les-Bains, France.

Delasin's 214 aggregate left her 14 strokes adrift of new leader Annika Sorenstam who fired a 65 to move four shots ahead of Korean Mi Hyun Kim going to the final round.

SECOND ROUND SCORES

Tiger Woods	67-68-135	Franklin Langham	70-76-146
Padraig Harrington	70-68-138	Brad Lardon	73-73-146
Sergio Garcia	68-74-142	Paul Lawrie	73-73-146
K.J.Choi	69-73-142	Shingo Katayama	74-72-146
Davis Love III	71-71-142	Craig Stadler	74-72-146
Jeff Maggert	69-73-142	Mark O'Meara	76-70-146
Phil Mickelson	70-73-143	Scott Hoch	71-75-146
Shigeki Maruyama	76-67-143	Harrison Frazar	74-73-147
Billy Mayfair	69-74-143	Peter Lonard	73-74-147
Tom Byrum	72-72-144	Robert Karlsson	71-76-147
Steve Flesch	72-72-144	Nick Price	72-75-147
Scott McCarron	72-72-144	Ernie Els	73-74-147
Justin Leonard	73-71-144	Tom Lehman	71-76-147
Rocco Mediate	72-72-144	Tom Gillis	71-76-147
Niclas Fasth	72-72-144	Jason Caron	75-72-147
Robert Allenby	74-70-144	Jose Maria Olazabal	71-77-148
Len Mattiace	72-73-145	Chris Dimarco	74-74-148
Dudley Hart	69-76-145	Darren Clarke	74-74-148
Charles Howell III	71-74-145	Bernhard Langer	72-76-148
Hidemichi Tanaka	73-73-146	Thomas Levet	71-77-148
Angel Cabrera	73-73-146	Luke Donald	76-72-148
Nick Faldo	70-76-146	John Maginnes	79-69-148
Jay Haas	73-73-146	Jesper Parnevik	72-76-148
Jeff Sluman	73-73-146	Craig Bowden	71-77-148
Jean Van De Velde	71-75-146	Greg Norman	75-73-148

Garcia sparks Bacolod sweep of RGFFP meet

RICHIE Garcia led an expected Bacolod-South sweep of the two major titles in the just-concluded southern leg of the Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines (RGFFP) in Bacolod City.

Fresh from winning the national seniors title at Riviera, former Philippine sports commissioner Garcia added the low gross title of the RGFFP tourney to his collection this year with a two-under-par effort for 36 holes at his Marapara home course and the Binitin layout.

Garcia's big effort enabled Bacolod South also made up of Renier Gerochi, Rey Soliven, Frederick Akeley and Philip Dabao to win by six points over the Francis Gaston-led Bacolod Marapara 2 with a 304 total.

Nestor Sevilla of RC Paranaque South was the overall net champion of the event sponsored chiefly by Taylor Made Adidas, PLDT, Cebu Pacific and Casino Filipino, L'Fisher Hotel and RGFFP chairman Bimbo Salazar's La Salle Bacolod High School Batch'67. Other supporters are Asahi Glass, General Nutrition Centers, Menzi&Co. and PDG Nemesio Peralta.

Bacolod Marapara 2 (Gaston, Chris Infante, Kokoy Locsin, Remo Hinlo and Franie Domingo) settled for the Founders Division, Bacolod (Francis Jalandoni, Junie Tordicillas, Chito Garcia, Tony Keh and Pitong Go) took the Governors Division and Tacloban (Efren Alvez, Roger Lo, Mario Figueroa, Vic Esperas and Bon Mutia) topped the President's Division.

Nobody won the Rolex watch worth $5,000 (P250,000) which served as the hole-in-one prize in all eight par-3s, a new attraction in the RGFFP tournament series.

Meanwhile, Dodoy Espuerta of Marapara won the RGFFP All-Negros Caddies Championship.

'Fistorama' fights today

SAN Miguel's 'Fistorama' today features RP No. 5 junior bantamweight Albert Cesa against PBF No. 10 junior bantamweight Sherwin Alferez in 10 rounds.

The fight was held recently at the state-of-the art Joe Cantada Boxing Arena in Taguig, Metro Manila in a fight card promoted by Edgardo "Boy" Cantada.

Fistorama is produced by Joe Cantada Sports and presented by San Miguel Beer.

World Slasher Cup backed

THUNDERBIRD, the country's market leader in gamefowl health and nutrition, is throwing its all out support to the forthcoming 2002 World Slasher Cup International 8-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum on June 17, 19 and 21.

Makers of Enertone Ready-Mixed Maintenance Feeds, Thunderbird has been a regular sponsor of the said event which is regarded as the "biggest cockfighting event in the world."

"We are proud to be a part of the World Slasher Cup. It's probably the only cocking event that brings together not only the cockers from all over the country, but has also become the main reason for Filipino cockers all over the world to come home," Thunderbird's brand manager Dante Nakar said.

Hosted by Nene Araneta, former Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares and the Firefly Group, the international competition will again present the best breeders in the local cocking scene as they prove their worth against the highly rated American breeders from Alabama, Tennessee, Texas, Arizona, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Georgia, Kentucky and Missouri.

The contest starts with the 2-cock elimination on June 17 followed by the 2-cock semis on the 19th and the 4-cock championship on the 21st.

No less than 80 tough entries are expected to see action in today's most sought-after bloodlines.

JODY SHINES

Caltex Havoline-Autoplus-Red Horse driver Jody Coseteng stamped his class anew, capturing his third straight sweep in Rounds 5 and 6 of the SVI Subic Grand Prix last weekend.

BRUNSWICK OFFICIAL

Multi-titled former world bowling champion Bong Coo (second from left), exclusive Philippine distributor of Brunswick Bowling & Billiards, welcomes Rob Sheets, vice president for sales of Brunswick Billiards, a division of Brunswick Corp., upon his arrival in Manila the other day. Also shown are Gina Avecilla (left), Tony Villegas and Techie Remondeulaz (right), vice president of the newly formed women's billiards association.

MILF to support Palaro in Lanao

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PEACE through sports.

That phrase finally got a local twist after the Moro Islamic Liberation Front pledged its full support to Lanao del Norte when it takes its turn as the Palarong Pambansa host next year.

In a rare gesture aimed at promoting the province, MILF officials have sent feelers to Rep. Bobby Dimaporo and Gov. Imelda Dimaporo that they are ready to lay down their arms and maintain peace and order while Lanao del Norte is preparing for the Palaro.

"This is a very good sign and a big boost for us because even if we don't agree on certain ideologies, the MILF shares our dream of helping the province get national attention through sports," said Dimaporo, after receiving the Palaro flag last week.

Dimaporo said the MILF representatives have made that vow as early as January when Lanao was at the thick of the fight with Naga City for the 2002 Palaro hosting.

He added that his province, bidding for the hosting since 1996 yet bypassed many times due to a variety of reasons, hopes to stage the biggest Palaro ever at the newly built Mindanao Civic Center in Tubod.

"This slipped through our hands many times," said Bobby. "We won't waste this chance to showcase our culture, tradition and business viability through our hosting of the Palaro."

He said his province's reputation has suffered with the wave of hostilities involving rebels and bandits in other parts of Mindanao, something that have not happened in Lanao del Norte for many years, according to him.

"We are raring to shake that thing off because people think what happens in some parts of Mindanao happens in all of Mindanao. In Lanao del Norte, Muslims and Christian get along," said Bobby whose marriage to Imelda typified that unity since he is a Muslim and she a Catholic.

She added that a team of Department of Education regional directors have toured the province already and expressed satisfaction over the sports facilities in the province.

"We have showed our readiness in terms of organizing big sporting events following our hosting of the First Mindanao Friendship Games last year," said Imelda. "In fact, they are asking us to host it once again, but we have set our sights on the Palaro."

Lanao has bidded for the hosting as early as 1996 right after Gen. Santos City staged it. But it was bypassed by other provinces year after year before losing it to Naga City early this year

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SundaySPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

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COMMISSIONER'S CUP ON

Shell faces Talk N Text in PBA opener

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
3:45 p.m.—Shell vs Talk N Text
5:45 p.m.—Ginebra vs Red Bull

By June Navarro

WITHOUT much fanfare, the PBA Commissioner's Cup opens today with four squads doing the honors of getting the mid-season conference off the ground at the Araneta Coliseum.

Shell, tailender during the previous conference, faces upbeat Talk N Text at 3:45 p.m. after a brief opening ceremony presided by the league's bigwigs.

Barangay Ginebra, bidding to renew its never-say-die spirit, troops to the floor in the other match against Batang Red Bull, a pre-tournament favorite owing to its imports.

Imports with the heft and caliber of NBA cagers were taken in to spice up the competition and somehow provide the RP basketball team a glimpse of what to expect in the Asian Games this September.

In fact, the tournament format was designed to suit the interests of the national squad, which will use the second conference to hone its skills for the Asiad in Busan, South Korea.

The Nationals won't be disappointed as they will be ranged and exposed against a competitive array of reinforcements.

Batang Red Bull has taken in a pair of body-bumping imports starring the 6-foot-8 Julius Nwosu and the 6-foot-7 Antonio Lang.

Silas Mills, tapped for another PBA tour of duty, and NBA journeyman Ben Davis will spearhead Barangay Ginebra's fight against the Thunder.

"I'm blessed with two imports who know the PBA brand of play," said coach Yeng Guiao, whose Red Bull Thunder were picked as favorites to win the crown.

The Turbo Chargers opted not to maximize the allowable combined ceiling of 13 feet and six inches for imports.

Instead, they settled for three-point specialist Askia Jones and Charleston University product Cedric Webber, reinforcements no higher than 13 feet combined.

But the Phone Pals wouldn't take the Turbo Chargers for granted, hoping that International Basketball League hotshot Danny "Boogs" Johnson and the comebacking Jerald Honeycutt live up to their expectations.

GUIAO

THE Los Angeles Lakers training staff hold their three NBA Championship trophies as Shaquille O'Neal (right) pumps up the crowd during the Lakers' "threepeat" celebration in downtown Los Angeles on Friday. AP

LA Lakers celebrate, promise 4th crown

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Lakers celebrated their third consecutive NBA title Friday with a triumphant parade and promises to thousands of fans that the team will top its "threepeat" with a fourth championship next year.

"Put the fours up!" playoff MVP Shaquille O'Neal directed a vast throng outside Staples Center, holding up that many fingers on each hand.

The Lakers battled through a tough seven-game series with the Sacramento Kings to win the Western Conference title, then swept the New Jersey Nets in the NBA Finals. In both series there was clutch play from O'Neal, Kobe Bryant and 3-point wizard Robert Horry.

"This is what I want you to teach your children today," O'Neal declared, stoking the embers of the Kings series. "Sacramento will never be the capital of California. Los Angeles is the new capital of California."

The celebration kicked off at City Hall before the team rolled 10 blocks through downtown past a roaring purple-and-gold crowd that followed them to Staples for a rally. The crowd was estimated at 150,000, said Officer Alex Daez, a police spokesman.

There were no immediate reports of serious crowd problems. Fans were monitored by more than 1,000 police officers who rapidly swept the crowds away afterward.

Temperatures were not very high but about 25 people had to be treated for heat stress, Fire Department spokesman Jim Wells said.

Veteran Lakers play-by-play announcer Chick Hearn, 85, who came back from heart surgery and a broken hip to call the end of the season, presided over the Staples rally.

"You all know that this championship is in the refrigerator. The door is closed, the lights are out, the eggs are cooling, the trophies are being polished—and the Jell-O is jiggling," Hearn said. "I was thinking during the parade, 'Threepeat is not a bore, but let's go for four.'"

Added Bryant: "Told you all last year we're going back-to-back-to-back. I'll see you all next year."

The crowd chanted "Horry, Horry, Horry," and the team performed victory rituals including O'Neal's exhortation, "Can you dig it," and Mark Madsen's uncoordinated dancing. He also told the crowd in Spanish that they would go for a fourth title.

"Cuatro, cuatro, cuatro, cuatro," the crowd chanted with him.

"Los Angeles is the only city big enough and cool enough for a team as great as the Lakers," Mayor James Hahn said. *AP*

MBA THRILLER

Pangasinan nips Pampanga

GAMES TODAY (Mati, Davao)
1 p.m.—Cagayan vs Negros
3:30 p.m.—Cebu vs Davao

OLONGAPO CITY—The Osaka Pangasinan Waves dominated the Pampanga Stars early on but needed to dig deep into their arsenal before prevailing, 106-104, last night in the MBA National Conference opener at the Olongapo Convention Center here.

Comfortably ahead by 14 points going to the final quarter, the Waves allowed the Stars to knot the count at 96 and breathe down their necks up to the last seconds.

The Stars even have the chance to force overtime as Vince John Santos was sent to the charity stripe by Randy Alcantara with two seconds to go. Santos, however, missed the front end of his two freethrows and intentionally missed the second. Romel Adducul sealed the Stars' fate by snaring the rebound for the Waves.

Alcantara was chosen as the game's best player after finishing with 25 points, seven assists, four rebounds and four steals.

Given more playing time in the absence of Chris Clay, Alcantara poured in 18 points, capped by a buzzer-beating triple in the second quarter, as the Waves took a 64-56 halftime lead.

The Waves then turned to Adducul in the third quarter to pull away at 92-78. Virtually unstoppable inside the shaded lane, Adducul pumped in 10 points in that span and wound up with a game-high 26 points.

Gilbey's Gin-Olongapo and LBC Batangas are still playing at presstime.

The MBA visits Mati in Davao today with games featuring Casino Cagayan against RCPI Negros at 1 p.m. and Cebuana Lhuillier against Professional Davao at 3:30 p.m.

Gang rebounding gave the Stars a 59-45 edge off the boards, but the Waves compensated by making more steals (10-3) and committing less turnovers (18-23). The Stars, true to their new brand of play, came through with six Blitz 3s. *Roy Luarca*

Scores:
PANGASINAN 106—Adducul 26, Alcantara 25, Aquino 14, Castillo 14, Du 11, Lambert 6, Banares 5, De Gula 4, Garcia 2, David 0.
PAMPANGA 104—VJ Santos 19, Pascual 16, Agustin 15, Ignacio 14, Gascon 14, Bansil 11, Bautista 11, Santos 5, Melencio 4, Garcia 4, Sison 1, Quinto 0.
Quarters: 29-23, 64-56, 92-78, 106-104.

7 cagers enshrined July 7

SEVEN basketball greats will be enshrined to the Hall of Fame on July 7 at the ballroom of the Manila Peninsula Hotel.

The third batch of the inductees are Mariano Tolentino, Eduardo C. Lim, Kurt Bachman, Alfonso Marquez, Carlos Badion, Geronimo D. Cruz and Loreto Carbonell.

A total of 15 cage legends are already elevated to the Hall of Fame during glittering ceremonies. The Hall of Famers are Carlos Loyzaga, Ambrosio Padilla, Fely Fajardo, Charles Brock, Tony Genato, Jacinto Ciria Cruz, Primitivo Martinez, Ramoncito Campos, Ed Ocampo, Gabriel Fajardo, Narcisco Bernardo, Lauro Mumar, Rafael Hechanova Sr., Pocholo Martinez and Francisco Vestil.

Fifty-three nominees were submitted to the Hall of Fame Steering Committee chaired by former Representative and now Bukidnon Gov. Jose R. Zubiri Jr. After a series of meetings and consultations, the number was reduced to 24.

"The original plan was to name six awardees but the board has decided to make it seven because of a tie for the 6th slot among the three candidates. It took us more than five months to screen the 53 hopefuls," said Gov. Zubiri.

Businessmen-sportsmen Manolo Lopez of Meralco and Fernando Zobel de Ayala are the chair and vice chair, respectively of the Board of Trustees.

Among those nominated were now Senator Robert Jaworski and Ramon Fernandez. But they were not included in the final list of nominees because of eligibilities. "They still have to wait for a few more years before they could qualify," said Zubiri.

Spring Oil-AUBC blasts off today

GAMES TODAY
2 p.m.—UST vs Yon Sei University
3:30 p.m.—Nat'l. University of Taipei vs SSC
5 p.m.—RP-Burlington vs St. Francis

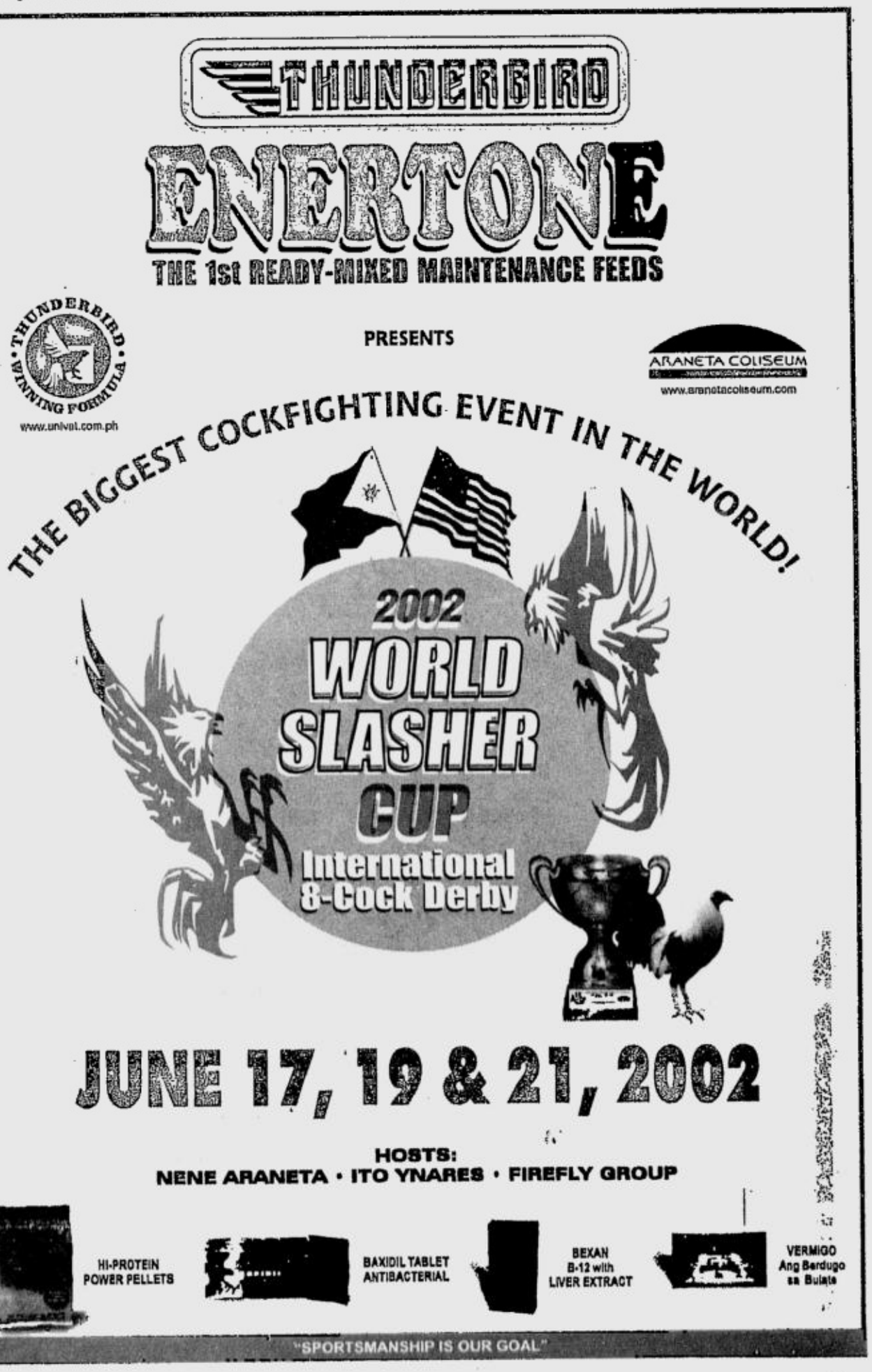
TWO foreign teams will spice up the third staging of the Spring Oil-Asian (AUBC) University Basketball Championship, which gets going today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Yon Sei University of Korea and National University of Taipei battle collegiate foes in the opening matches of this five-day cagefest organized by the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP).

The Koreans clash with University of Santo Tomas at 2 p.m. while the Taiwanese takes on Ambrosio Padilla Cup titlist San Sebastian College at 3:30 p.m.

National Intercollegiate winner and AUBC defending champion St. Francis of Assisi, playing without Yancy de Ocampo, meets at 5 p.m. the RP Youth-Burlington squad, which is mentored by Johnny Tam.

Invited to attend the simple opening ceremonies are Spring Oil owner and multi-titled national shooter Tac Padilla.



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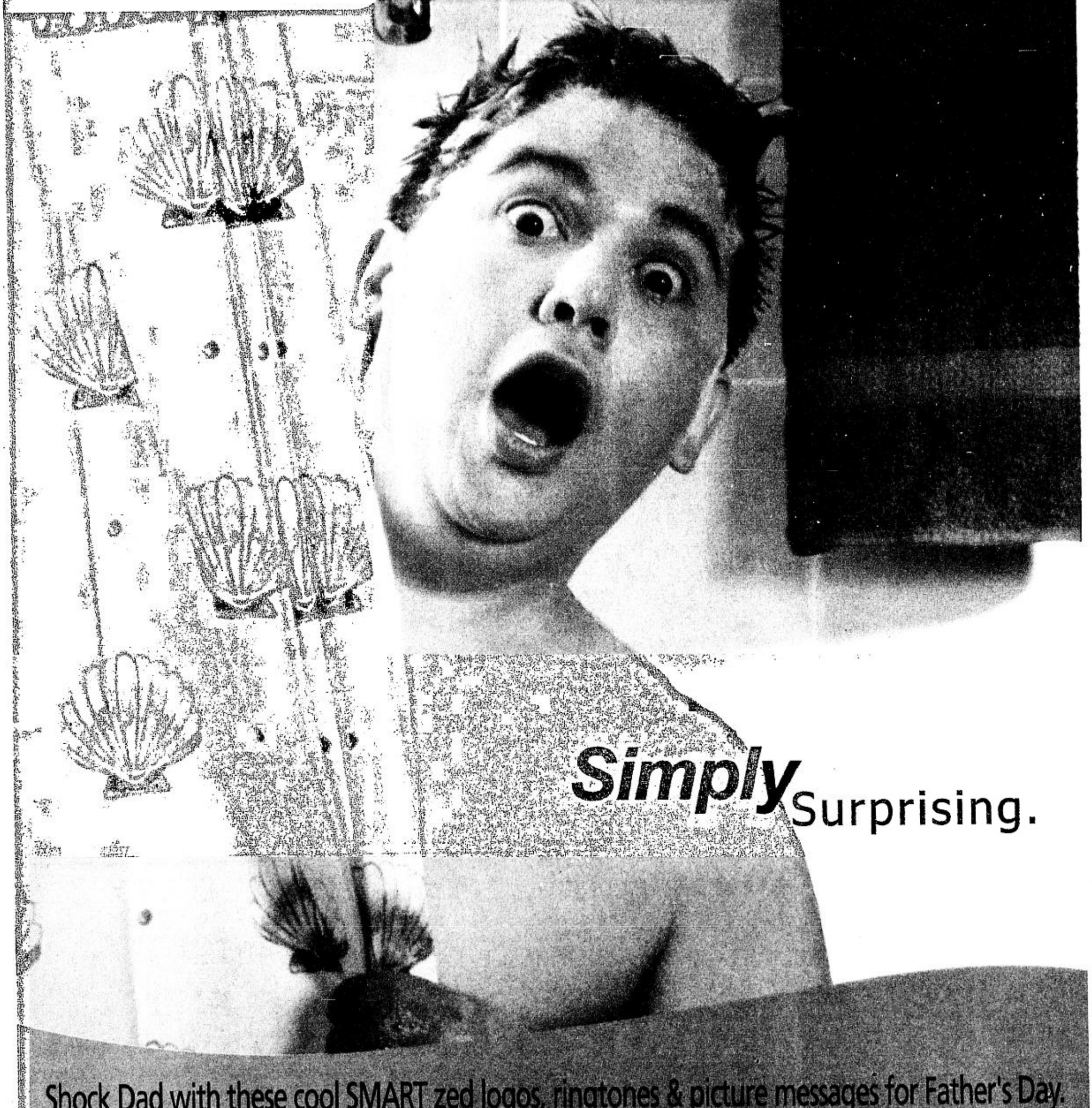

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Beatles
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Barry Manilow
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Goo Goo Dolls
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TONE LETITBE

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Judy Garland
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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Pasay cops defended /A26
Work sites unsafe for workers' children /A26

Korean victim 'a good father'

By Alcuin Papa

"HIS LIFE is more valuable than the small amount of money the criminals stole from him," South Korean businessman Han Young Chung said of his diplomat friend, Chung Young Ho, who was victimized by petty thieves on June 6.

Pointing out that Chung was a "victim of poverty" in the country, Han described his friend as "a good husband and father to his lovely wife and children."

In a letter to the INQUIRER, Han said that "words cannot describe" the pain of Chung's family.

Chung, third secretary of the South Korean Embassy in Manila, disappeared on June 6 in Makati City. His body was found on June 7 in Marikina City, but police positively identified the body as that of Chung only on June 11, five days after he disappeared.

Police said Chung was a victim of the Ativan Gang, petty criminals who drug their victims before they rob them of their cash and valuables.

Han said that on the day he learned of his friend's disappearance, he went to church, which he claimed he had never done before, and prayed for Chung.

"I felt anger, sorrow, loneliness and fear," Han said in his letter. "On Sunday (June 9) I went to church and whispered a short prayer so that my friend would come back home safely."

Two days later, he learned of his friend's death.

Han said he had known Chung since they were children. "We shared naughty and funny times," he wrote. "Now all that is gone."

He said what happened to Chung and the poor peace and order situation in the country forced him to consider packing up and leaving his business in the Philippines.

"I thought of stopping my business here and going back home," Han said. "I got frustrated with the bad national security situation here (where) the government could not even guarantee the safety of my diplomat-friend."

But he said he decided to stay because he believed it was what Chung would have done. "I will not stop doing business here because I believe that my friend would want me to continue what I started," Han said.

KOREAN VICTIM/ A26

By Dyords, 'Ang Galing ng Pilipino'

By Leah Salterio

IN THE face of the current violence, Filipinos need something positive to boost their sense of pride.

This is exactly what prompted singer-comedian Dyords Javier to embark on a tri-media campaign to propagate the slogan *"Ang Galing ng Pilipino."*

"I want to promote a positive slogan to counter the negative things that have been happening around us," Javier told the INQUIRER.

"The objective is to rebuild trust in the Filipino by inculcating self-confidence via a nationwide slogan," he explained. "If we want change, it has to come from the heart. You have to make a Filipino believe in himself so he will be proud to be a Filipino. That should also take away his condescending outlook or false humility."

"Ang Galing ng Pilipino" actually started as a special Independence Day presentation in 1995. Javier wrote the lyrics for a song of the same title, with music by Ryan Cayabyab. It was recorded in two versions, ballad and reggae.

In 1996, the Ang-4 quartet, which included Pinky Marquez, Isay Alvarez, Mon David and Javier, took the show abroad to entertain overseas Filipino workers.

"In my entire career as entertainer, I have not seen an abundance of self-esteem in Filipinos as when I go abroad," Javier said. "We wanted to boost their self-esteem and self-worth. We wanted to bring them something positive and happy, virtues that I believe are intrinsic in Filipinos."

The free show was supported by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), Department of Foreign Affairs

BY DYORDS/ A26

ATIENZA'S 'ANGELS' surround the mayor at the Home for Angels in San Andres, Manila. JESS YUSON

The other children of Atienza

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez
Contributor

TODAY, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza will be greeted "Happy Father's Day" by his and wife Evelyn's six children, as well as by his other children from outside the marriage.

Aside from their own six children, Atienza and his wife had adopted two more, including a blind girl. In February 1996, they also put up the House for Angels, a crisis center and shelter for abandoned children. The center is only about a block away from the Atienza residence in San Andres Bukid, Manila.

THE OTHER/ A26

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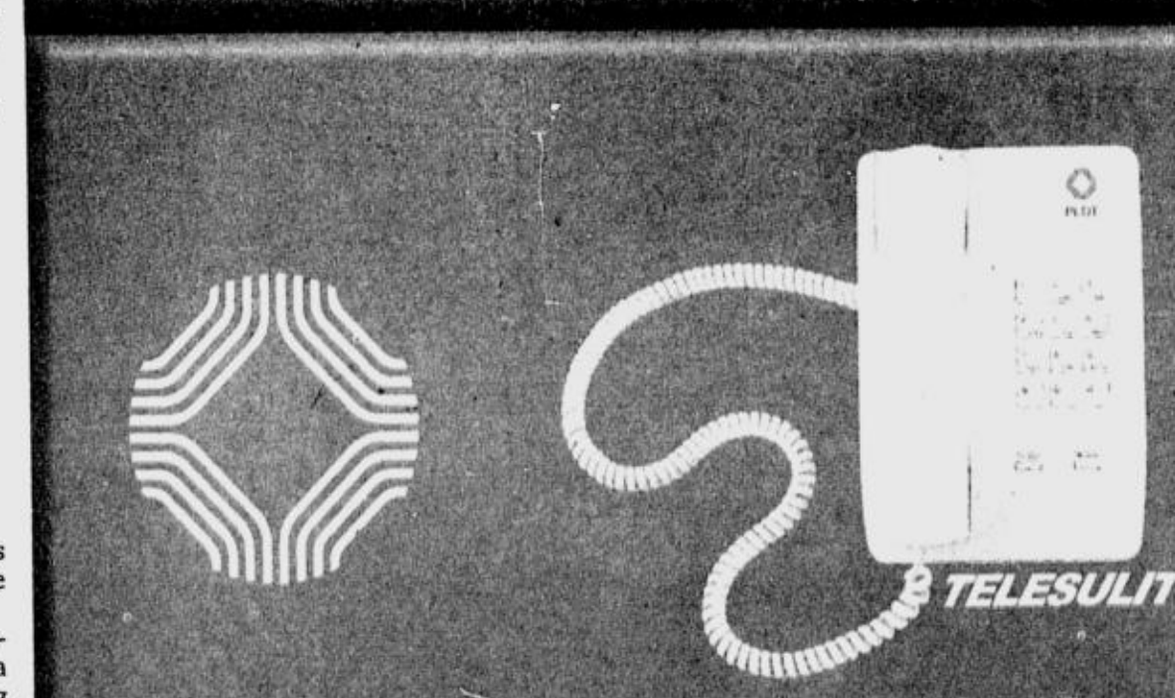

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Pasay cops defended

PASAY City Rep. Connie Dy called for a stop to the condemnation of the Pasay City police force, saying this will not help in maintaining peace and order in the city.

The Pasay police came under fire after 21 of its members botched the attempt to rescue a boy taken hostage by a farmer at the Philtranco bus terminal in the city last May 31. Both hostage, Dexter Balala, and hostage taker, Dominador Talvo, were killed.

"Our policemen, especially those not involved in the failed hostage crisis, are very demoralized," Representative Dy yesterday said in a statement. "Unknown to non-residents of Pasay, our police force, under the leadership of Superintendent Eduardo de la Cerna, has been doing a very good job in controlling criminality in the city until this incident happened.

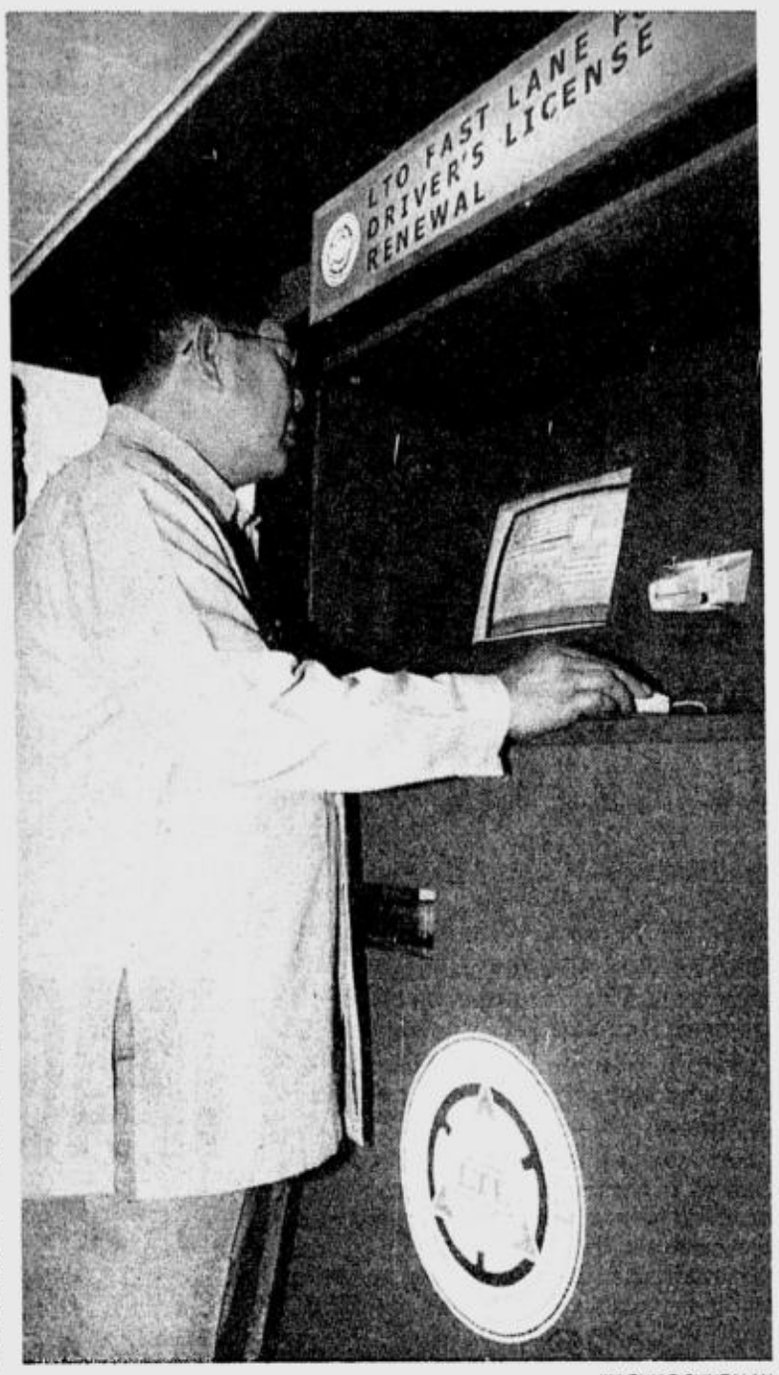
"Out of 271 crime incidents (mostly petty crimes) from January to May this year, we have only about 20 unsolved cases.

"Admittedly there were lapses in the handling of the situation, but we should view this as an eye opener on the capability of our police to handle this kind of situation which needs special skills," she added.

The congresswoman hailed the decision of National Capital Region Police Office Director Edgardo Aglipay to redeploy majority of the Pasay City policemen after training in Subic.

"Nobody knows the city better than those presently in the force, and I thank Director Aglipay for his recent declaration that those who will undergo training will be getting their old posts back," Dy said in her statement. "Although personally I think relieving the entire police force seems to be an overkill, I will not question the wisdom of the PNP top brass for making such an order."

She suggested that the policemen could be trained in batches so that the operation of the entire Pasay police force would not be unduly affected.



JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

TIME MACHINE
Land Transportation Office Chief Roberto Lastimoso uses the LTO Fast Lane for Driver's License Renewal machine at the Farmer's Plaza in Cubao, Quezon City. The machine, said to be the first of its kind in the country, can renew a license in 20 minutes, according to the LTO.

Work sites unsafe for workers' children

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA councilor wants construction workers prohibited from bringing their wives and children to stay with them in the construction site premises.

Councilor Ma. Theresa Bonoan-David said it is usual for a construction worker to bring his wife and children to the construction sites where he works.

The family-members stay in the workers' barracks and become "extended dwellers," David said.

The fourth district councilor said the surroundings of construction sites are unhealthy and the workers' family members, particularly children, are exposed to occupation-related ailments such as respiratory diseases.

She said the women and children are also exposed to accidents that may take place in the construction sites. They also run the risk of being victims of serious offenses such as rape or sexual assault, theft, homicide and petty offenses perpetrated usually by other workers or by members of other workers' families, she added.

According to her proposed ordinance, a worker will be fined P500 for each family member he harbors inside the construction site.

To be covered by the proposed ordinance are the worker's spouse, children, siblings or relatives within the fourth civil degree who are not employed by the contractor or authorized to stay in the premises.

Week-long celebration marks Manila's 431st

THE MANILA city government expects the week-long "Araw ng Maynila" celebrations to be as lively and colorful as the trademark polo shirts worn by Mayor Lito Atienza.

City Hall on Friday bared the series of events and activities in the capital which lead to June 24, the 431st anniversary of Manila's foundation by the Spaniards.

The theme of this year's celebrations is "Maynila, Mahal Kita."

"We want (the celebrations) to mirror the happiness and pride that Manileños now feel in their hearts as a result of the positive changes that we have introduced as part of our 'Buhayin ang Maynila' program," the mayor said.

Saturday night, the Star Search grand finals were held at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium in Malate, featuring performances by talents from various barangays in the city.

A testimonial luncheon to honor the city's outstanding taxpayers will be held at the Bulwagang Antonio Villegas at City Hall on June 20.

This will be followed at 6 p.m. in the same venue by the Patnubay ng Sining and Kalinangan Awards, given every year to honor outstanding Filipino artists.

A four-day food festival will start June 21 along the seawall of Roxas Boulevard in front of the Plaza Rajah Sulayman in Malate. Hotels, cafes and restaurants in Manila will put up booths in the area.

On the night of June 22, the awards night of the revived Manila Film Festival will be held at the Aquino Stadium.

At 8:30 p.m. on June 23, the Galician Cruciero monument will be unveiled on the plaza beside the Bureau of Immigration building. The 23rd Manila Jockey Club's Grand Copa de Manila horse races start at 4 p.m. at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

In the morning of June 24, Atienza will lead city officials in inaugurating the renovated Plaza Sulayman. In the evening, a street party will be held at the renovated square, with a fireworks display and a free concert by the rock group Rivermaya as the main attractions.

That same night, a testimonial dinner will be held at the Manila Hotel to honor this year's outstanding Manileños.

Jerome Aning

Foundation names model fathers

A CABINET member, at least three justices, a congressman and an adviser to President Macapagal-Arroyo are among this year's recipients of the Ulirang Ama Awards.

The awards are a yearly project of the National Mother's Day and Father's Day Foundation of the Philippines Inc.

This year's awardees in the special category are Secretary Michael T. Defensor, Benigno R. Ilagan, Francisco V. Peralta, Pedro D. Dy, and lawyer Romeo R. Ticzon.

The other winnners are, in law and the judiciary, Court of Appeals Justice Godardo A. Jacinto, Supreme Court Justice Sabino R. de Leon Jr., Court of Appeals Justice Cancio C. Garcia, lawyer Crisostomo M. de los Reyes, and lawyers Emmanuel F. Dooc and Benjamin C. Santos;

Government service, Rep. Carlos M. Padilla, Mayor Jose L. Atienza Jr., Felicito C. Payumo, former Rep. Dante V. Liban, Benjamin P. Epres, Almario E. Francisco, Jose P. Flores and lawyer Benito Q. Bengzon;

Socio civic and religious, Emer S. Deato, Jose Dy Tan, Manuel A. Camara and Alfredo M. Alejar; medicine and allied sciences, Dr. Gerry H. Tan; military, Lt. Gen. Dionisio R. Santiago; media and journalism, Dante A. Ang and Honor B. Cabie;

Business and industry, Herman M. Montenegro, Eusebio S. Go, Antonio G. Francisco Sr., Francisco P. Rivera and Shy Tian C. Lim; and agriculture, Bernardo O. Dizon.

The Ulirang Ama search culminates every third Sunday of June in conjunction with the international celebration of Father's Day.

The other . . .

From page A25

The center is run by a private foundation that is part of the couple's pro-life advocacy. Among its wards are children who would have been aborted if the Home for Angels had not pledged to take them in.

"I really love children," Atienza says. "Even before we got married, we already agreed to have 12 because I believe that the more children you have, the happier your family becomes. But of course, along with that, you have to work harder.

"I never considered limiting the number of our children just so we could send them to the best schools," he says. "We thought, why limit the best gifts God can give, the children themselves, when we can give them the best we can afford?"

When the couple started to have children Atienza was then working in an advertising firm and he, being the family breadwinner, had to work double time.

The children were born only a year apart from each other, he says, but that worked to the couple's advantage. As they were growing up, they did not have to go out of the house because they already had playmates in one another. The Atienzas also did not have to spend a lot on the children's clothes because the younger ones wore hand-me-downs.

In school, they enjoyed discounts because the school offered free tuition to the third child.

"All our children started studying in a nearby parochial school and graduated in good Catholic schools," their father says. "Now they are all successful in their own little way."

His eldest son is three-term Manila Councilor Kim Atienza.

As a father, the Manila mayor describes himself as "relaxed." He allows his children to explore things on their own. Even when the country was under martial law, democracy reigned in the Atienza household.

"We allow the children to speak out," he says. "We even get their votes on decisions the family has to make."

The children's vote was vital when the couple considered adopting Sara Jane, now 11, and Angelica, now 5. In both cases, the Atienza children voted unanimously to take in the girls, who are both special children.

Atienza describes the two girls as well-behaved, like his six other children.

The secret, he says, is in discipline and attention. "I believe that children should have their first feel of discipline starting in the very first hour of their arrival in the world," he says.

At the same time, it is also in the first hour that the child should be made to feel the love and attention of parents.

The key to child rearing, he adds, is to shower the child with love, care and attention.

He says that despite his hectic schedule, he makes it a point to give priority to his family. At least once a week, the Atienza family goes out to lunch or dinner. He also finds time to call all his 10 grandchildren to say hello and check on them.

Atienza says he does it "deliberately and consciously," believing that quality time should always be given to the family.

"No amount of success can make up for one's failure at home," he says.

By Dyords, 'Ang Galing ng Pilipino'

From page A25

(DFA), Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO).

Ang-4 has been all over the United States, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and Europe. Three years ago, Bimbo Cerrudo replaced David in the Ang-4 quartet.

Feel-good

"We've been to places nobody else has gone before," Javier beamed. "Ras Laffan is the single biggest natural gas deposit in the world which is two hours outside Doha in Qatar. We did a free show there for 4,000 Filipino workers, but the Pakistanis also watched us perform."

In every show, Ang-4 includes an eight-minute portion where the group members try to get the "Ang Galing" message across, without being preachy. Then the group sings "Ang Galing ng Pilipino." During the refrain, they get people from the audience to participate in the singing.

"Then they'll surely remember that feel-good moment," Javier said.

He said he has seen how "Ang Galing ng Pilipino" works in many parts of the world.

"The effect is tremendous when we do a show and send the message," he said. "We don't really do anything different. We just sing and do a little comedy. We've received testimonials from the OFWs, OWWA and research groups through letters and e-mail."

For their efforts in trying to bring cheer to overseas Filipinos workers, the Ang-4 quartet has received many commendations, endorsements and letters of gratitude from foreign ambassadors, city mayors and even the contract workers themselves.

Former First Lady Amelita "Ming" Ramos called them "credible ambassadors of goodwill . . . bridging the gap between the government and the doubting mass audience."

No politics

Honolulu Mayor Jeremy Harris gave the group a gold seal proclaiming "Ang Galing ng Pilipino" and urging Filipinos in Honolulu to spread the message among their fellow citizens.

"I may sound idealistic or nationalistic, but I've seen it work," Javier said. "The journey of a mile begins with the first step and I'm already on my third step. If I can make this work, I'll have my mile."

He denies that he is pushing "Ang Galing ng Pilipino" in preparation for a political career. He campaigned for former President Fidel Ramos in 1992 and he was among the entertainment celebrities who took part in the 1986 Edsa Revolution. But Javier said he does not see himself entering politics.

"After 1986, I decided that for the country to be better, the change should start within ourselves," he said. "This country does not need a president for it to be progressive. I believe people should first work hand in hand. Then we can all support the president."

Javier wants to bring "Ang Galing ng Pilipino" shows to the grass-roots level in the country.

"You don't give money to the fisherman or buy him a fishing rod," he said. "Teach him how to fish. If he knows what to do and how to do it, then he will realize his self-worth. We should apply that in our lives. It's not very hard to do."

JAVIER (front, right) with Ang-4 co-members (from left) Pinky Marquez, Isay Alvarez and Bimbo Cerrudo.

Korean victim . . .

From page A25

In Makati City, a ranking police official who asked not to be identified said that based on the report on the abduction and death of Chung, there was a lapse in "intelligence work" at the National Capital Region Police Office level, which resulted in the delay in identifying Chung's body.

He said when the South Korean Embassy reported Chung's disappearance on June 7, the Marikina police reported the discovery of a dead body in Marikina Heights. But it took Makati police four days to positively identify the body as Chung's.

"We submitted the report on (Chung's) abduction to the NCRPO operations center in Bicutan a day after he was reported missing," said the Makati officer. "If what the Marikina police officers are saying is true, that they also submitted their own report of the discovery of the body on the same day to the NCRPO, then someone at the NCRPO was sleeping on the job."

He said the NCRPO "could have ordered us to send people from our station to the Marikina precinct and check if these (the missing person and the body) are related."

But "no such thing happened," the officer said.

"Maybe our reports were shoved into a drawer and forgotten," he said.

An era ends . . .

From page A32

The show became a much-copied template for a few series that wanted to imitate the show's theme. "Dark Skies" and "Baywatch Nights" (the lifeguards chased a humanoid sea creature!) tried unsuccessfully to copy the show's success. "X-Files" also inspired many UFO documentaries as well as zillions of abduction testimonies.

Open-minded

The previous season shown locally ended with a double-barreled cliffhanger: Mulder is abducted by aliens, and the supposedly-barren Scully is pregnant (possibly with Mulder's child). What are the odds in the X-Files universe that Scully's pregnancy is a fluke, or that the child won't be an important character in the entangling bigger picture?

If you do check out the finale spoiler, you'll know that it's an open-ended thing, and Gillian Anderson's hinted at being open for another "X-Files" movie. You'll also learn many details like characters and events that you haven't seen yet, so it's going to be confusing. Thirty or so episodes have yet to be shown here, after all.

This series will sorely be missed. I have watched virtually every episode since it began locally in 1995 (but don't quiz me about the details—somehow I still have a life), and am eagerly awaiting the remaining ones. It's perhaps the only show that cleverly fuses science fiction with science fact, but bravely acknowledges that not everything can be explained. Well, at least by us earthlings.

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8

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2 MAGKAPATID
3

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A MAGKAPATID

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8 CASS & CARY
9 UTANG NI TATANG

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2
3
4 SUPER B
5 (SDDS) MAGKAPATID
6 DISKARTE
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8 I THINK I'M IN LOVE

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4 MAGKAPATID
5 SUPER B

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1
2
3
4
5
6

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2 DISKARTE

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1 DISKARTE
2 MAMASAN

CitiMall
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1
2

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3 (DOLBY) SUPER B
4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE

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3 PANIC ROOM
4

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4 (DTS) MAGKAPATID

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3 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 UTANG NI TATANG

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5 DEATH TO SMOOCHY

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2 DISKARTE
3 I THINK I'M IN LOVE

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2 DISKARTE
3 I THINK I'M IN LOVE

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2
3

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8 MAMASAN

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2 MAMASAN
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4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5 MAGKAPATID
6 CASS & CARY
7 MAGKAPATID
8 RESIDENT EVIL
9 SUPER B
10 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

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2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 CASS & CARY
4 MAGKAPATID
5 DISKARTE
6 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
7 A WALK TO REMEMBER
8 SUPER B
9 MAGKAPATID
10 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
11 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
12 DRAGONFLY

SM CITY MANILA 5239240
1 DISKARTE
2 MAMASAN
3 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 MAGKAPATID
5 SUPER B
6 MAGKAPATID
7 UTANG NI TATANG
8 MAMASAN
9 MAGKAPATID
10 SUPER B
11 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
12 DISKARTE

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401
1 MURDER BY NUMBERS
2 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
3 UTANG NI TATANG
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 DRAGONFLY
6 RESIDENT EVIL
7 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
8 SUPER B
9 MAGKAPATID
10 MAGKAPATID
11 DISKARTE
12 MAMASAN

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1 DISKARTE
2 MAGKAPATID
3 MAMASAN
4 SUPER B
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6 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
7 RESIDENT EVIL
8 A WALK TO REMEMBER
9 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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1 MAGKAPATID
2 MAMASAN
3 A WALK TO REMEMBER
4 DISKARTE
5 CASS & CARY
6 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
7 SUPER B
8 RESIDENT EVIL
9 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
10 MAGKAPATID

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1 PRIVATE FUNCTION
2 PANIC ROOM
3 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5 MAGKAPATID
6 LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .
7 SUPER B
8 MAGKAPATID

SM CITY ILOILO 3209422
1 JIHAD WARRIOR
2 CLOSED
3 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4 SUPER B
5 I THINK I'M LOVE
6 MAGKAPATID
7 CLOSED
8 PANIC ROOM

SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015
1 MAGKAPATID
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 MAMASAN
4 SUPER B
5 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
6 DISKARTE

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1 SUPER B
2 MAGKAPATID
3 DISKARTE
4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE

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1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 2514302
1 DISKARTE
2 MAGKAPATID
3 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 SUPER B

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1 PANIC ROOM
2 MAGKAPATID
3 DEATH TO SMOOCHY
4 SUPER B
5 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
6 JIHAD WARRIOR

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3
4

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3
4

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8 A WALK TO REMEMBER
9 RESIDENT EVIL
10 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

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4 SUPER B
5 MAGKAPATID
6 UTANG NI TATANG
7 DISKARTE

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1 DISKARTE
2 MAMASAN
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4 SUPER B
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7 A WALK TO REMEMBER
8 RESIDENT EVIL

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8 RESIDENT EVIL

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2 MAMASAN
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4 SUPER B
5 MAGKAPATID
6 UTANG NI TATANG

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459
1 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
2 MAGKAPATID
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 DEATH TO SMOOCHY
5 PANIC ROOM
6 SUPER B

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1 JIHAD WARRIOR
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4 SUPER B
5 PANIC ROOM
6 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

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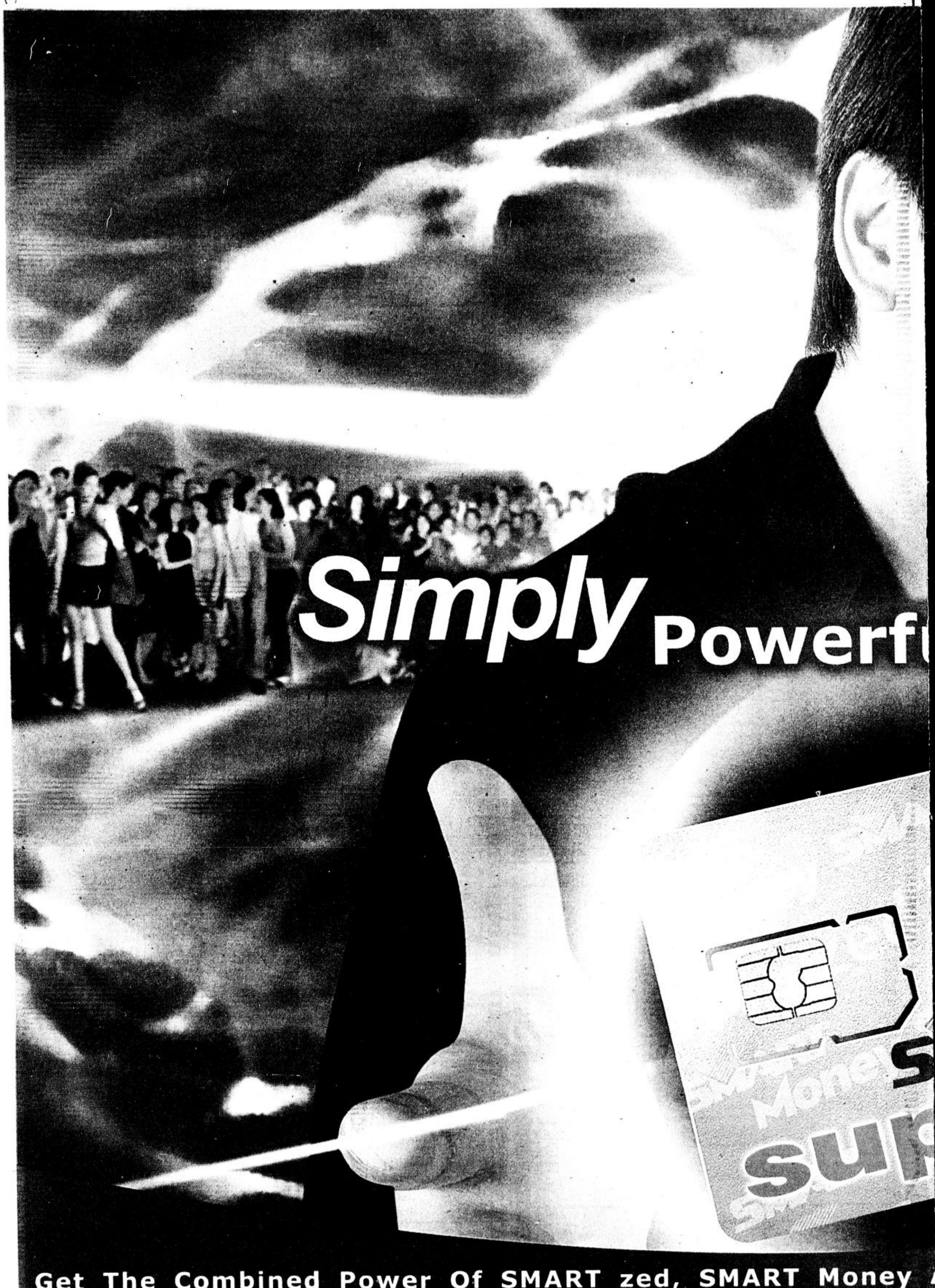

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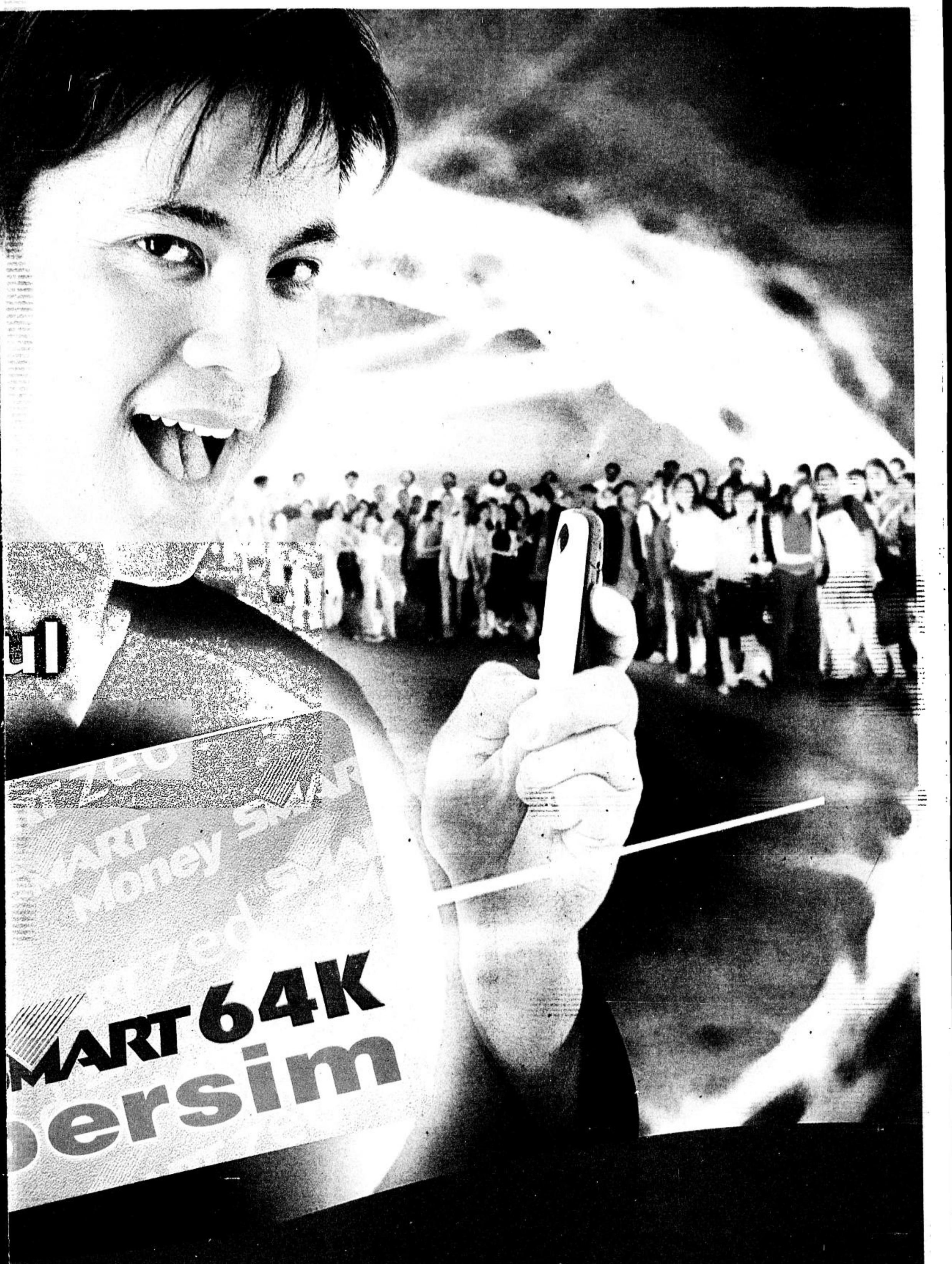

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Movie premiere

CAMPUS Radio 97.1 dwLS FM presents another movie treat as it screens in advance the explosive action-thriller, "The Sum of All Fears," starring Ben Affleck and Morgan Freeman, 7:30 p.m. on June 17 at Cinema 2 of Robinson's Galleria.

Based on Tom Clancy's electrifying bestseller, "The Sum of all Fears" stars Academy Award winner Ben Affleck as CIA analyst Jack Ryan and three-time Academy Award nominee Morgan Freeman as CIA director William Cabot. Together, they uncover a deadly conspiracy set up by European neo-Nazi terrorists.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MAGKAPATID
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SUPER B
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	MAMASAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	A WALK TO REMEMBER
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	MAGKAPATID
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	DISKARTE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
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ODEON	DISKARTE
ODEON-2	MAMASAN
ROBEN	SUPER B
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	COLLATERAL DAMAGE / MIMIC 2

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MAMASAN
REMAR	DISKARTE
REMAR-2	MAMASAN

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	DISKARTE
B	MAGKAPATID
C	I THINK I'M IN LOVE

MANDALUYONG CITY

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CINEMA-1	A WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-2	FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DISKARTE
CINEMA-2	MAMASAN
CINEMA-3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SUPER B
CINEMA-6	UTANG NI TATANG
CINEMA-7	CASS & CARY
CINEMA-8	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-12	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
CINEMA-14	DISKARTE
CINEMA-15	SUPER B

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-2	DRAGONFLY
CINEMA-3	MURDER BY NUMBERS
CINEMA-4	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-5	A WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-6	A WALK TO REMEMBER

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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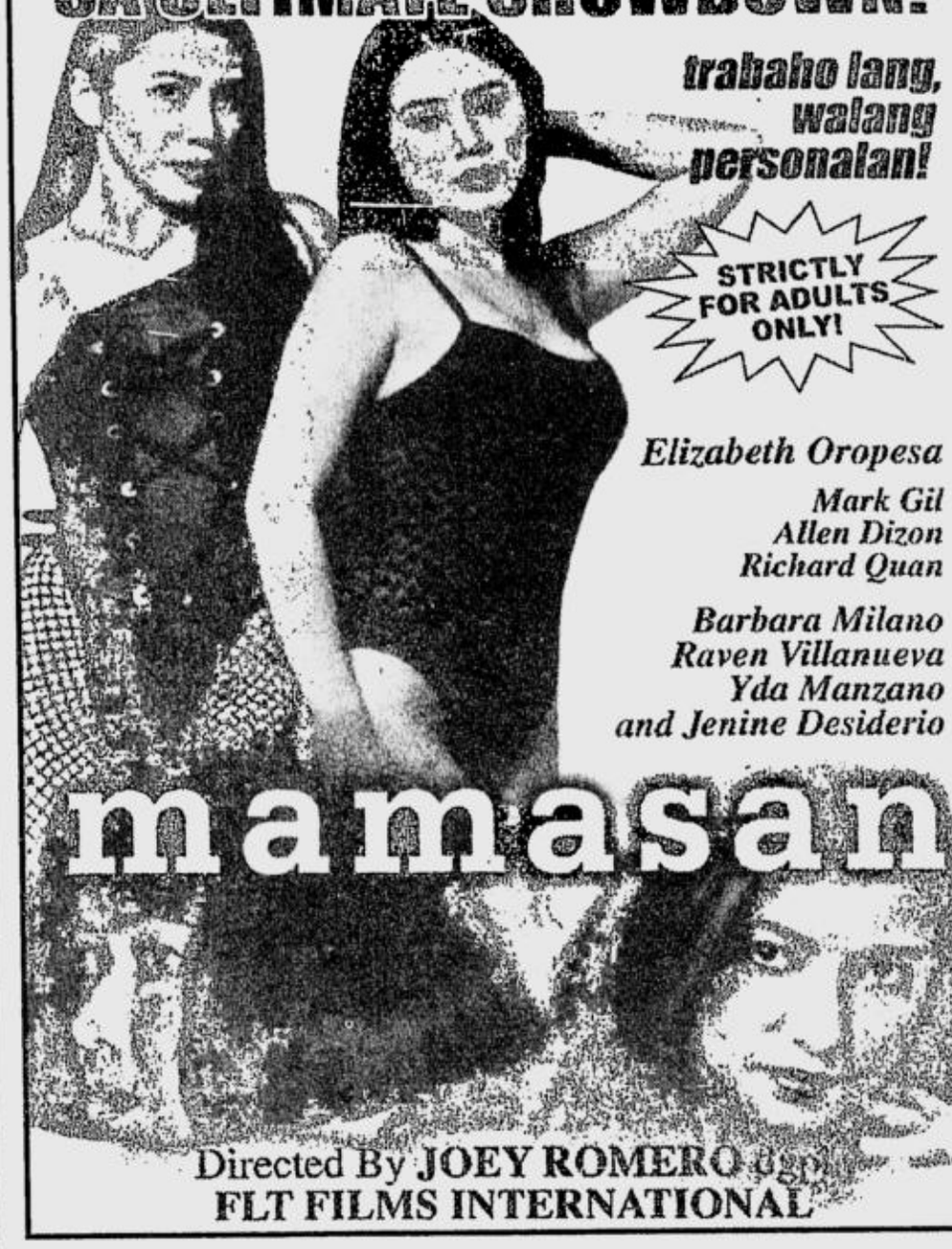

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Mark Gil
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Richard Quan
Barbara Milano
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and Jenine Desiderio

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1 I THINK I'M IN LOVE	1 MAGKAPATID 2 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS	1 MURDER BY NUMBERS	1 MURDER BY NUMBERS 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	A WALK TO REMEMBER
2 MAGKAPATID	3 MURDER BY NUMBERS 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	2 A WALK TO REMEMBER	2 A WALK TO REMEMBER 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20	2 MAGKAPATID
3 SUPER B	4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE 5 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2	3 MAGKAPATID	3 PANIC ROOM 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00	3 MURDER BY NUMBERS
4 DISKARTE	6 A WALK TO REMEMBER 7 RESIDENT EVIL	MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE 9:00 PM June 21, 22, 26 & 29	4 MAGKAPATID 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	4 SUPER B
			5 DRAGONFLY 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00	5 I THINK I'M IN LOVE

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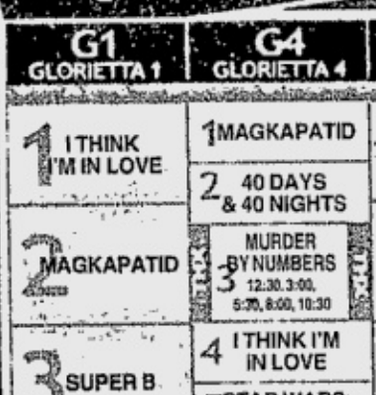
The Ayala Malls Events

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

MAKATI ALABANG CEBU



The Ayala Malls Father's Day Events

Makati
Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards' Snick-A-Pick Party
June 16, 4 pm, Glorietta Activity Center

Video Me Daddy, Daddy & Me Picture, e-Postcards, Father's Day Card Making Contest
June 10-16, e-Lounge Glorietta 2

Alabang
Motor Town 2002 Car Show
June 10-19, Activity Center

Live Entertainment by Silk Band
June 15, Activity Center

Cebu
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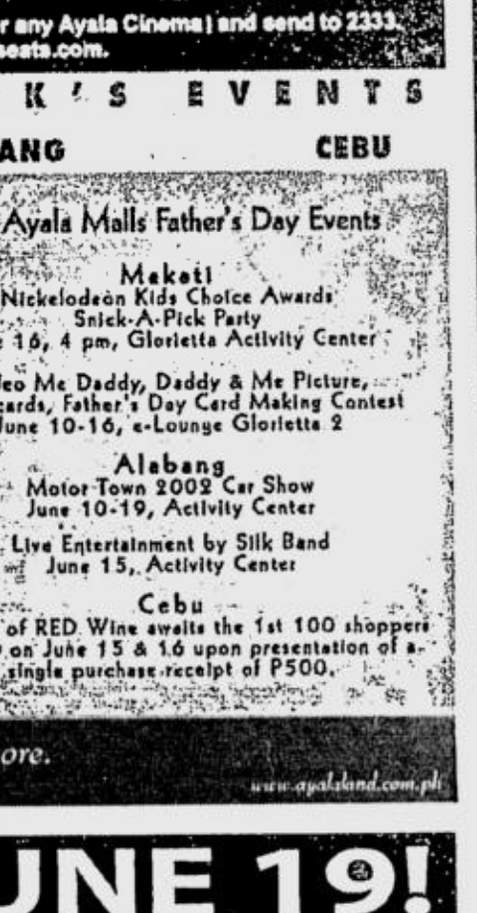

'Daddy' Franco and wife Ayen hardly talk about money

FRANCO Laurel has reason to be excited today, Father's Day. He and his wife **Ayen Munji** are expecting their first child in October. They know it will be a girl and they have decided to name her **Maria Yllena Angia**.

Although this will be the first time that Franco will be a real dad, he has been playing father to Ayen's two kids, **Yela**, 11, and **Kiko**, 7, from a previous marriage. The kids call him "Daddy."

A close friend of the couple attests that when you see Franco bonding with the kids, you wouldn't think he is the stepdad.

"We get along really well," Franco says. "Initially, I thought it would be hard to deal with them, but they are very good kids. Ayen has raised them very well.

She thanked me for making her family whole."

Franco's marriage to Ayen, who experienced a life of royalty when she was previously married to a Brunei prince, had not been spared from nasty talk. Ayen said the most hurtful thing she heard was the buzz that Franco married her for the money.

But Franco says her wealth never intimidated him. After all, Franco himself grew up in an affluent clan. He is the grandson of former Vice President **Salvador "Doy" Laurel** and former Philippine Ambassador to Japan **Jose Laurel III**.

Franco is the eldest of five children of **Francis C. Laurel** and former model **Felicia Reyes Laurel,** and the family also lives in Ayala Alabang.

"If we let the talk affect us, we'd be unhappy," Franco maintains. "What matters most is we are happy with our lives."

They hardly talk about money. "That's a source of friction," Franco says. "Besides, Ayen hates it when we talk about money."

He said it was a mutual decision when he moved into Ayen's house, also in Ayala Alabang.

"I proposed to her to live with me in a modest townhouse or condo unit, something I could afford with my earnings," he says. "Of course, it would not be as grand as her house. But the kids have gotten used to their house, so we both agreed it would be better if I moved in."

Franco built his own room on the third floor of the house. While the rest of the house is European in style, his room is Zen-inspired with a modern, minimalist design. He says he added Japanese touches to the room to remind him of the five years he spent in Tokyo, where he studied at Keio University.

"Ayen allowed me to have my own room," Franco grants. "Sometimes, we sleep there with the kids. There are times when we all sleep in her room."

He insists it is better for couples to have separate bathrooms, "to avoid arguments or petty fights."

Franco is an involved father to Ayen's kids. He even attends Parent-Teacher conferences at Brent, where the children go.

Before he married Ayen, Franco didn't feel the need to talk to the father of the kids. "I know that in the future, there will be a chance to talk to him or even meet him," he says. "I respect the fact that he is their father. We just say 'hi' through Kiko.

"One time, I was in the mall with the kids and Kiko's father called him up on the cell phone. He said, 'Hi Daddy, I'm with my Daddy Franco. We are in the mall.' Then he told me, 'Daddy, my Daddy says hi.' So I told him, 'Okay, say hi to him, too'."

Although the kids are aware of their royal connection, Franco says he and Ayen try their best to bring them up as normal children. They visit Brunei at least four times a year.

"We like to make them feel they can also do ordinary things that other kids do," he says. "They can go to the mall or watch a movie. We just don't allow them to go to their friends' houses alone. Instead, we invite their friends to come here."

FUTURE FATHER. Franco Laurel will have his own daughter soon.

He does not foresee any problem with the two kids when the new baby arrives. He says Yela and Kiko are also excited about the arrival of their baby sister. Ayen's ultrasound test last week confirmed the baby's gender. She will give birth in the newly built Asian Hospital in Muntinlupa, with Dr. **Martin Manahan** as her gynecologist.

If the baby had been a boy, Franco would have named him Jose Franco, not really his "junior" since he was christened Franco Jose. The nickname would have been "Pepe," after his grandfather.

Franco respects the former life of Ayen and her children. "I know where my place is in their life," he says. "I support them and give them love. Ayen gave me a good direction in life after we got married. I've been so blessed."

Postponed

THE CONCERT of jazz diva **Diana Krall**, scheduled tonight at Meralco Theater, has been postponed to Aug. 16 and moved to the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Krall had to call off the show after her mother was hospitalized in the United States.

Krall first visited the Philippines in 1999, when she did a two-night show at the Metropolitan Theater, presented by Philip Morris.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

STAR WARS - GP 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40	DRAGONFLY - P13 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	MURDER BY NUMBERS - R18 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00
MAGKAPATID - GP 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50	A WALK TO REMEMBER - GP 12:10, 2:25, 4:40, 6:55, 9:10	A WALK TO REMEMBER - GP 11:00, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10

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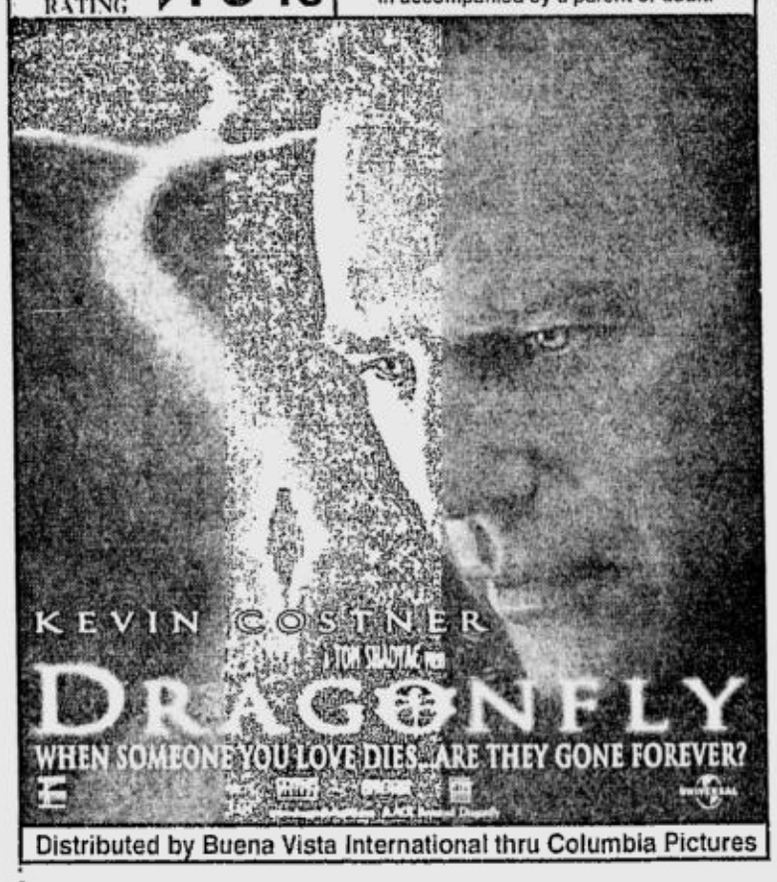

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MELANIE MARQUEZ MYLENE DIZON TROY MONTERO
RUFA MAE QUINTO
IS
SUPER-B

DIRECTED BY JOYCE BERNAL
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NOOD NA!

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ENTERTAINMENT

Nestor Torre's "Viewfinder" on B19

Editor Louie C. Camino

An era ends with 'The X-Files'

MULDER AND SCULLY David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson.

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

THE truth has finally been revealed, at least to US viewers and denizens of the Internet.

Last May 19, the phenomenal television series "The X-Files" ended its nine-year run, answering the complicated questions that have eluded faithful viewers and the show's protagonists, Agents Mulder and Scully (David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson). They discover not just one, but many important truths about the massive conspiracy that has threatened both the agents' lives and sanity for almost a decade.

In the Philippines, we won't see the end yet for at least a year and a half. Not one to succumb to reading Internet spoilers, I took exception to this one because sooner or later E! News Daily might mention a pivotal fact or two about the series finale.

"The Truth," as the last two-hour episode is aptly titled, cleans up the convoluted mess that has become of the "mythology" episodes, the ones that focus on the shadowy Syndicate, the conspirators who have had uncountable run-ins with the intrepid FBI agents.

Suffice it to say that details of this ending are posted in cyberspace, if you just can't wait that long to watch it two seasons from now.

Uncharted places

But "The X-Files" is more than conspiracies and government perfidy. It delves into uncharted places, recognizing the paranormal and the mysteries that science has not documented or has kept hidden from the public. The series has tapped into the collective, subconscious "fear of the unknown" before the new millennium started. It became symbolic of manifested anxieties that needed to be addressed. Creator Chris Carter's inquisitive direction into lore, superstition and intrigue fueled the fire of this momentous series, which also became a hit film in 1998.

Carter created two distinctly identifiable personalities with his characters. Fox Mulder is the paranoid agent whose creed, "absence of evidence isn't always evidence of absence," has gotten him into every kind of trouble possible but his determination has afforded him a few satisfying answers in his quest.

His "holy grail" of sorts is his sister Samantha, whom he believes was abducted by aliens when they were children.

Dana Scully is Mulder's dedicated but skeptical partner, an independent woman whose belief in science prevails despite being confronted or violently attacked by varying forms of oddities through the years. To her, everything is explainable or a hoax, and she's often the voice of reason especially when Mulder's manipulated by the elusive conspirators.

U to X

The FBI agents specialize in unexplained, unsolved cases. According to a flashback episode, the "X-Files" label started many decades ago when folders of many unsolved, mysterious cases started piling up in the letter "u" filing drawer of a law enforcement agency. They were eventually transferred to the letter "x" filing drawer, because it had plenty of room.

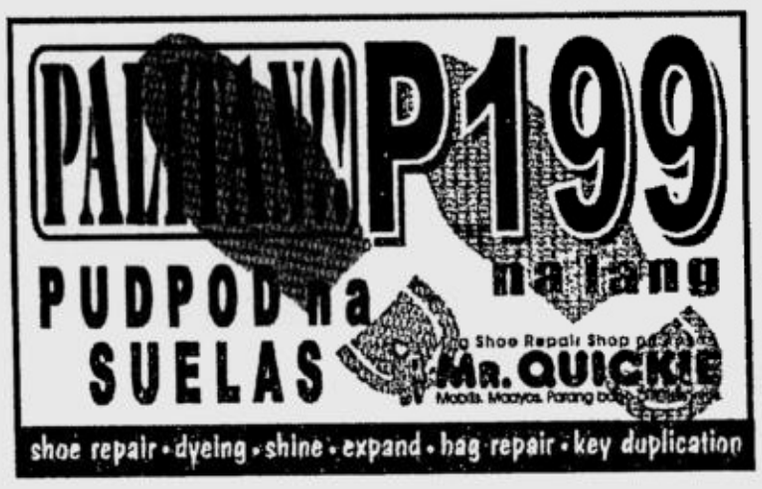
Mulder and Scully have encountered their share of the bizarre, from psychics, mutants, ghosts, vampires, clones and of course, a multitude of aliens (gender-bending sexaholics, classic grey types, unearthly bacteria, and shape-shifting bounty hunters). Some of the more serious episodes concentrate on secret deals between the Syndicate and some alien groups, compelling in the first few seasons but later on becoming too sprawling to be followed even by viewers who have scorecards.

The villainous Cigarette Smoking Man (William B. Davis) continually dashes Mulder and Scully's efforts, but at the beginning of Season Seven, he reveals in a very Vader-esque fashion that he's Mulder's father. CSM claims co-responsibilty for Scully's abduction and cancer (but due to some grander design he provided her its cure). His true motives won't be clear until the end.

Brilliance

Self-contained stories have always been the other type of episode. They have a profoundness that enhances the Mulder and Scully tandem, when they're not pitted against government puppeteers.

AN ERA/ 27



SundayBiz

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ● Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

PLUS A BANK PRESIDENCY

'Cargador' and boxer ended up with 3 graduate degrees

VISPERAS proposed the creation of Centennial Savings Bank which he now heads.

EDUARDO C. Visperas during his 1970 graduation from the Philippine Military Academy.

By Elena R. Torrijos

HE was 12 years old when he started supporting his family as a rice cargador in Baguio in 1960. Initially, he could barely carry the heavy sacks of rice from the trucks to the stores in the market, but he eventually grew stronger from the backbreaking work. By the time he was 14, he could unload 50 sacks of rice a day.

At the rate of 10 centavos per sack of rice, his gross take of P5 was higher than the then daily minimum wage of P4. The P5 was enough to buy a ganta of rice and give some transportation money to some of his nine siblings.

But Ret. Col. Eduardo C. Visperas didn't forget school. Although he had to work a few hours before and after his classes, he studied diligently and read medical journals and digests as he dreamed of one day becoming a doctor. Despite doing both the tough physical work of a grown man and the mentally demanding schoolwork, he finished high school as class valedictorian.

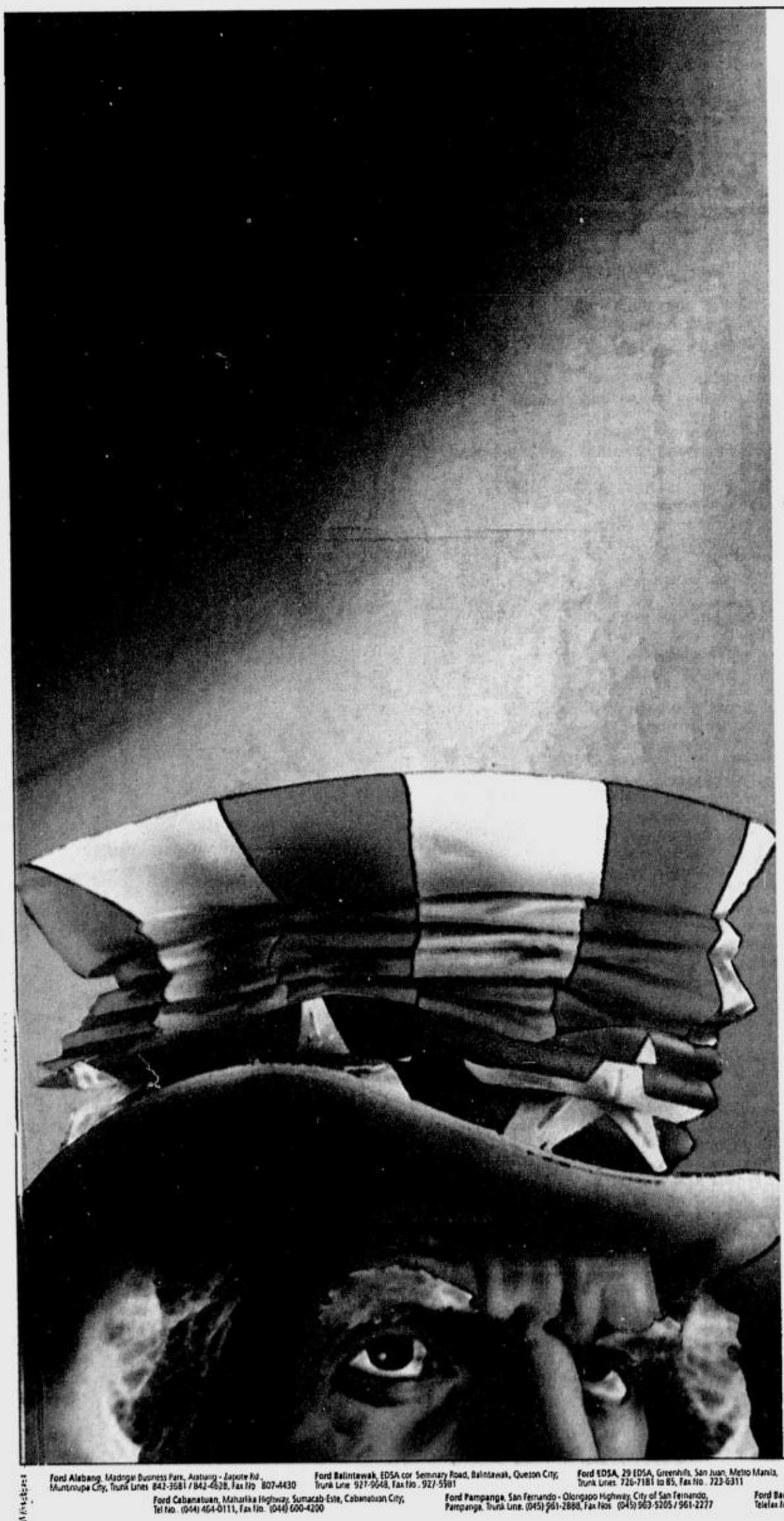
The eldest son, he didn't mind the work nor the burden of being the breadwinner. "It's different when you're young. You don't feel it. I didn't feel poor," Visperas said. "When we had a little money we'd feel we were better off than everyone else."

VISPERAS (fourth from left) beside now AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu.

FIRST JOB

Although he couldn't afford to pursue medical school, Visperas still achieved success in the fields he ended up in. In his early 50s, he is now president of Centennial Savings Bank, a Metro-Manila based thrift bank owned largely by the Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association.

CARGADOR/ B2



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'Hand-me-down' ideas on crisis handling not enough

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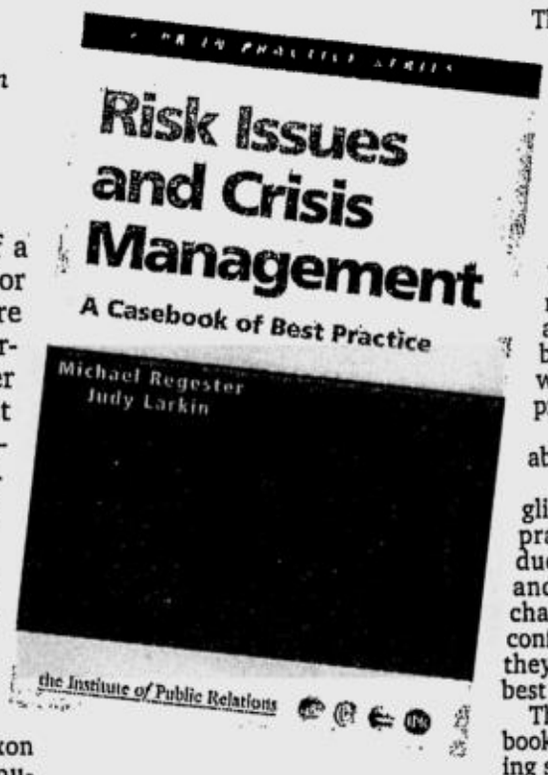
Making it HAPPEN!
MOVING HOUSING FORWARD FOR 2002 AND BEYOND

"Risk Issues and Crisis Management"
By Michael Regester and Judy Larkin
Kogan Page Limited, 2002
(Second Edition)

By Dante M. Velasco



WHAT is the price of a ruined reputation? For an individual, where reputation equals honor, a tarnished reputation is a "forever thing." For a corporation, it means the end of "forever"—meaning, cutting short a corporate existence keyed toward perpetuity.

More to the point, damage to corporate image due to a failure in risk management or a mishandling of a crisis runs into hundreds of millions and billions of pesos or dollars. Exxon lost $13 billion due to the oil spill of Exxon Valdez. Union Carbide's "reputational damage" was estimated at $527 billion due to the Bhopal incident in India. The collapse of the Barings Bank due to a failure in issues management cost $900 million.

These figures represent clean up costs, days of lost production, product boycotts, product recalls, falling markets and share prices, escalating compensation and damage to the brand's reputation.

EXECUTIVE READ

"There is a growing litany of corporate and government mismanagement of issues which pose a threat to that most important of all assets—reputation." Thus point out the authors of the book "Risk Issues and Crisis Management."

Are the authors exaggerating? No. They cite a survey made by the Association of Insurance and Risk Managers in 2000—among the top 250 companies in the United Kingdom—and thus conclude that "damage to reputation was the biggest business risk they faced."

The book looks at the organization in the 21st century and tells us that it is vulnerable to many pressures. It must, therefore, "understand and respond to our rapidly shifting values, rising expectations, demands for public consultation and an increasingly intrusive news media."

What the authors say are not alien to us here in this country. The issue of purchased power adjustment (PPA), for example, has presented a "risk issue" to both the state power firm and the largest electric power distributor in the country.

Have their respective reputations been hurt? For one, there is a brewing boycott of their services. Second, embedded resentment has re-surfaced. And news media have picked it up due to its populist appeal, getting a little help from a "populist" President earning brownie points from the "masa."

Years before, a multinational soft drink company was plunged into widespread protests because of a failed numbers promo. After arrests, prolonged bad publicity, organized protest actions and numerous court cases—the company suffered a shrinking market share due to the damage to its reputation.

Companies do not have to be helpless when crisis strikes or a controversial issue against them hogs the headlines. There are strategies for "preparedness."

This book provides analysis and advice in two main parts: Risk Issues Management and Crisis Management. Sounds simple enough? Yes, but not simplistic.

The authors, drawing from a rich experience in these fields beginnig with definitions (to make sure authors and readers are on the same wavelength), bring us in major parts of the world for up-to-date cases, and provide analysis.

The last part is the most valuable contribution of this book.

Since this book is written by English public relations and advocacy practitioners, it somehow introduces us to European thinking—and thus makes for a refreshing change. It also results in greater confidence among practitioners that they are in touch with the world's best practices.

This one does not read like a textbook. It sounds like practitioners "talking shop" over a cup of steaming coffee—exchanging ideas, trading experiences, sharing statistics. Then you come away wiser—and readier to tackle issue-related and crisis-in-the-making problems.

The discussion on the "issue lifecycle" is instructive. American experts call it the "path of a controversial issue." Reality-based tips on handling a crisis—from sparing the CEO to avoiding legal pitfalls; from expressing regrets to making "ex-gratia payments"; and avoiding blind faith in lawyers to having a gut-feel—are generously given in the book.

In these parts, issues management and crisis handling tactics and strategies have been cut-and-dried and tired (not tried) and tested. But the diversity of problems and the complexity of 21st century society require from practitioners—and clients—a larger or newer "frame" that enable them to identify potential or real problems—and come up with new—because target-specific—strategies.

Hand-me-down ideas from older hands are no longer enough. The old experts lived in a different era. You need books like this one—which is equivalent to attending a refresher course on preserving and expanding your "reputational capital" in Europe.

Then, after reading it, test it in the real world—with newfound confidence. *(dantemv@i-next.net)*

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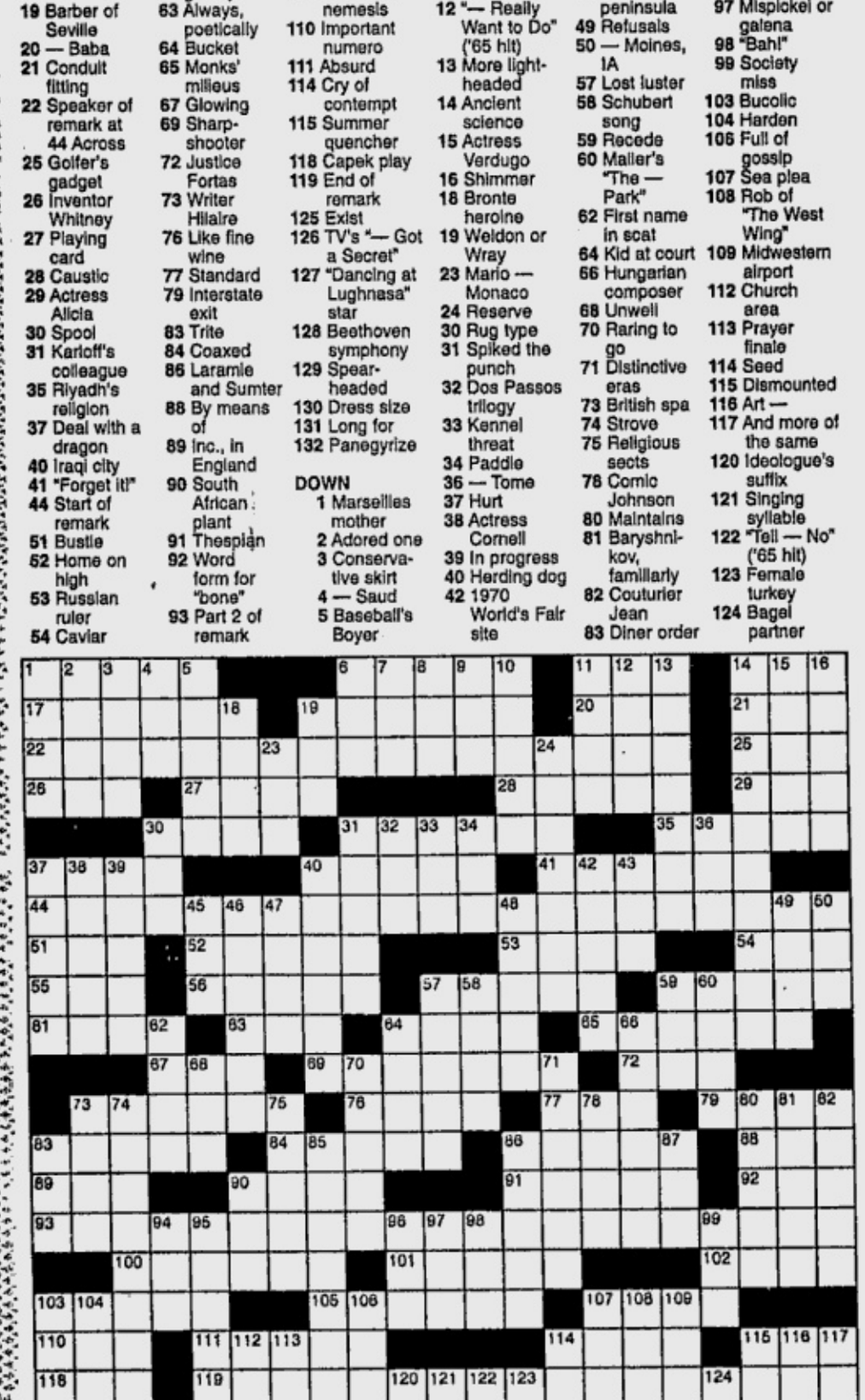


ANSWER ON PAGE E2

'Cargador' and boxer . . .

From page B1

He joined AFPSLAI in 1992 when the organization was in the process of recovery after a serious management problem. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas was about to close the bank but gave the savings and loan association a chance to recover under a new management team, of which Visperas was a member.

As corporate planning department head, Visperas, who had background in computer and engineering, designed and implemented all operational, administrative and financial controls previously non-existent in AFPSLAI. As a result, AFPSLAI not only recovered but it became the largest non-stock savings and loan association in the country. It funded the establishment of Centennial Savings Bank in 1995 as conceived by Visperas.

Before reaching his present status, however, Visperas had to pay his dues and toughen it out, literally.

To get his job as a cargador, he had to allot a certain percentage of his wages to older boys who controlled different territories, including the loading and unloading of vegetables, rice and other trade commodities.

"Even then I had a knack for organization. I organized the other (cargador) boys in the market. During the break I would tell them, it's not right we pay," Visperas said. "I got 15 to 20 boys and we were able to push away the toughies."

"That was a good lesson. You have to fight for your rights," he asserts.

The hard labor granted him substantial physical strength, which he was able to use to his advantage for the sake of economic sufficiency.

With his father unemployed most of the time and his mother a simple seller of peanuts and *turon*, he sought to earn extra by joining local boxing matches. The physique created by carrying heavy loads daily made him good in the ring. Every Sunday, boxing matches would be held at the plaza in Baguio, at the foot of the city hall. There, boxers who won would get P20 while those who lost would get a consolation prize of P5.

Driven by the knowledge that boxers who often lost would eventually not be invited to fight, Visperas strove to win. He won most of the 50-odd matches in high school.

He thought that because he was a valedictorian he would automatically get a scholarship for college. But he still had to work to support himself through an engineering degree at the University of the Philippines so he took on the job of a janitor.

Unfortunately, his pay as a janitor was inadequate even for his own needs and so, after two years, he dropped out and joined the Philippine Military Academy, which paid him a large enough salary to send money to his family.

VISPERAS (front row, right) was just a teenager when he became the breadwinner of his family.

After PMA, he got married and has four grown up children, three boys and one girl.

He continued improving himself. He completed his civil engineering degree in UP in 1972 and became a licensed civil engineer. Two years later he worked at an M.S. degree in Economics. Another two years later, he earned a masters degree in computer science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and, still, three years later finished his Masters in Business Administration also in UP.

He had various civilian jobs throughout his 28 years of military service. He was an economist/consultant for the Tax and Ttariff Center of the Philippines, a director for planning and evaluation of Hilvidec Industrial Estate Authority, deputy administrator of the Philippine Coconut Authority.

In 1983, when political intrigues under Marcos made it too hot for him to be in the country, he worked in Saudi Arabia. He returned to the Philippines when Marcos was deposed in 1986 and subsequently put up a security business and took on jobs in Pantranco North Express and Isetan n Department Stores Inc. before joining AFPSLAI.

Centennial Savings Bank has been losing money but Visperas predicts it will be able to wipe out its entire losses in the past several years by the first half of next year.

He believes that to succeed one should have a vision "and then pursue it relentlessly" in a step-by-step manner. He certainly showed that willpower and ambition could overcome a challenging background.

She followed her mom's advice not to work for other people

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

CHERYL Chan-Nolasco grew up seeing her mother Elvira Chan, head of Metrobank subsidiary Philippine Axa life, leave the house at 6:30 in the morning and come home past dinnertime.

That experience of seeing her mother devote long hours to her job plus the sage advice for her "not to work for other people" led Cheryl to go into business.

Combine the conditioning with her love for clothes and shopping, the result is Concept Planners Marketing, a specialty retailer of apparel and accessories for ladies.

"My mother never encouraged me to go into corporate life. She did not want me to spend my time worrying about somebody else's business" Cheryl recalls.

Her mother's words had such a deep impact on Cheryl that she ventured into business even when she was still in elementary school.

Her first venture was selling garrison belts (those military-type belts that went back in vogue last year).

She got the idea when her yaya came back from one of her days off with a garrison belt for her. Cheryl wondered how her nanny could afford one when these were sold at high prices in Greenhills.

She then learned that her yaya bought the garrison belt from Divisoria. Seeing an opportunity, she sent her nanny back to Divisoria the next week to get some more belts, which Cheryl then sold to her classmates.

Cheryl continued selling through high school although her business ideas became more sophisticated. From buying belts in Divisoria, Cheryl moved on to buy cloth and have these fashioned into blouses by neighborhood *modistas*.

She would ask them to copy her own clothes, which were made by popular stores like Esprit and Gap.

She continued her informal business until college at the University of Sto.Tomas where she took up Economics.

After getting her degree, there was no question what business she would get into—clothes.

She took up dressmaking and pattern making at Slim's, a fashion school to aid her in this venture and then a computer course at I/ACT before plunging into business.

Cheryl did not know much about the business side of things—like production, marketing and distribution—but she still went ahead.

She and good friend Sabrina Uy started Ivory Coast in the early '90s—a line of comfortable, casual, classic clothes like T-shirts, skirts and shorts.

"We made T-shirts that were dressier than the usual round neck shirts. From there it evolved into blouses," she says.

Sabrina, however, later decided to focus on children's clothes, so after dividing the initial earnings they went their separate ways. Cheryl opted to continue with Ivory Coast while Sabrina started Gingersnaps.

She set up Concept Planners Marketing Inc. in 1996 to produce and retail clothes under the Ivory Coast brand. She started with about P30,000 in capital.

Cheryl says Sabrina suggested the brand name Ivory Coast as it is "a place in Africa that evokes images of pristine white beaches, a laid back, genteel and comfortable lifestyle."

Ivory Coast clothes were first sold in a store called Second Wind in SM City. She just walked into the store, talked to the owners and asked if they would be interested to carry her T-shirts and shorts.

They agreed and Ivory Coast products sold well, racking up about P600,000 a month in sales.

Her clothes were also sold at a friend's boutique called San Antonio, which sold bags for export, and then soon in department stores and malls starting with a 10-square-meter space at the Women's wear section in The

SHE/ B4

CHERYL Chan-Nolasco headed straight to entrepreneurship.

PAPALINO'S
Breakfast 110
Lunch/Dinner 288
G/F El Pueblo, ADB Ave. Cor. Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas, Pasig City.
Tel.: 632-7117, 632-7605

Ridding the driver hassle of finding a parking slot

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SINGAPORE—A CAR park that guides a driver to the nearest available slot as soon as he enters the facility.

A system where an LCD screen flashes a greeting to VIP guests and then directs them to their reserved parking slot.

The stuff of dreams? Not in this car park of the Capitol Tower, dubbed the most intelligent building in Asia.

The Sipark System developed by Siemens Building Technologies gets rid of a driver's everyday hassle of going round and round a floor in search of that elusive parking slot.

Joseph Noel, Siemens general manager for Intelligent Traffic Systems, says the car park guiding system consists of sensors for every parking slot, zone displays and a monitoring system.

Once the car enters the parking area, overhead arrow signs lead the driver to available lots in the 420-slot lot.

The arrow signs are activated by the sensors on every parking slot that flashes red when the space is occupied and green if available.

Cross signs will appear if there are no available slots in a specific area. Then if all the slots on the floor are occupied, the "full" sign will appear and the driver is guided to the next floor.

The current system in the Philippines' Makati Central Business District only goes so far as to indicate the available slots in particular parking areas such as Glorietta, 6750 or in Park Square.

But as to where the slots are, it's the driver who has to look for them.

Noel says the system was developed in response to the demand for a more efficient car park management system to serve the big-name tenants of the Capital Tower—the most expensive corporate address in Singapore.

Capital Tower is the flagship and headquarters of CapitaLand, one of the largest listed property firms in Asia. Opened in July 2000, it is the first of a new generation of intelligent buildings in the region.

Its tenants include the Government Investment Corp., Cisco Systems, Maybank, Mizuho Bank and JP Morgan.

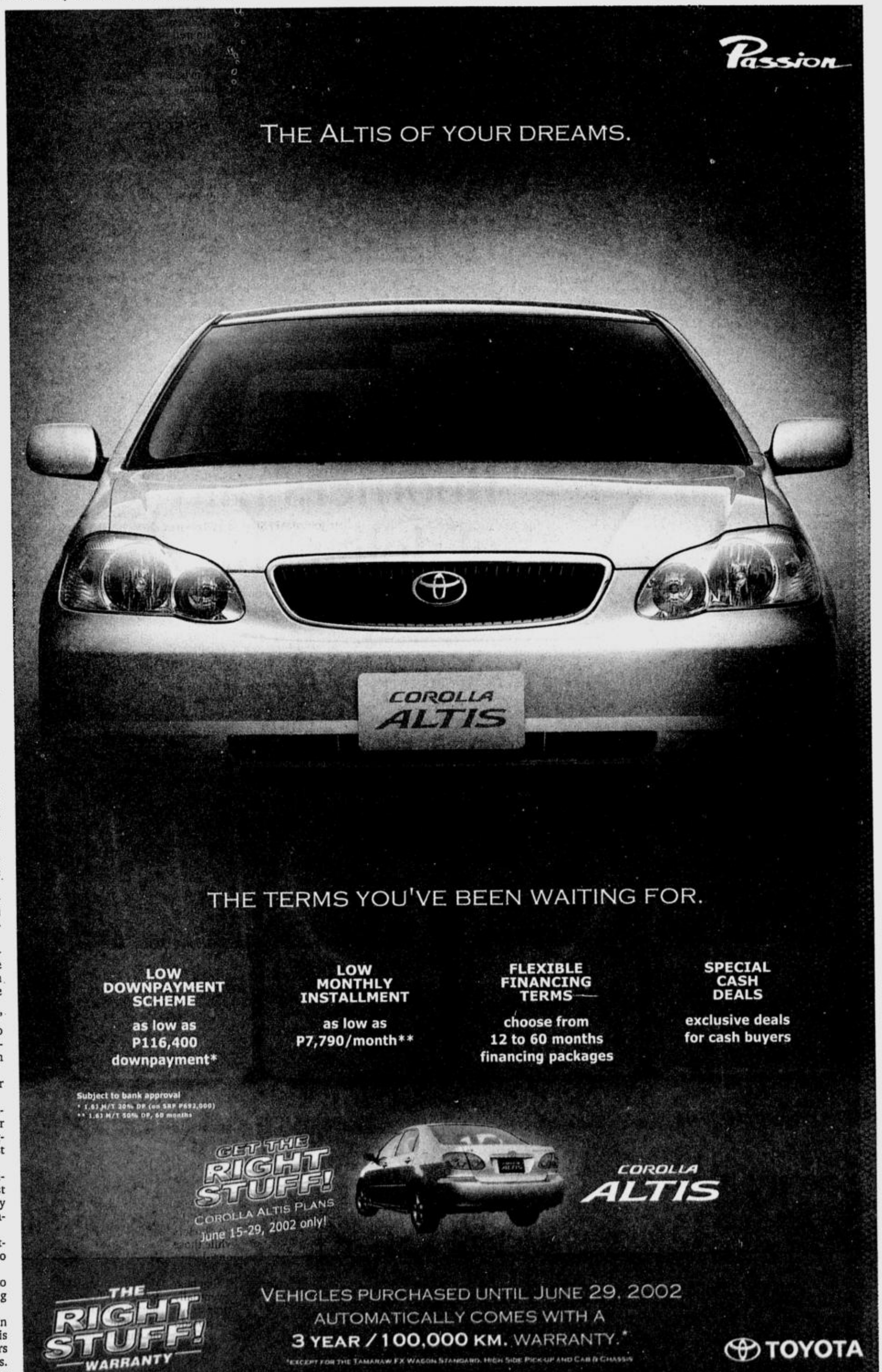
"User benefits are quick and easy access to the nearest space, saving time and avoiding stress due to less search traffic," he says.

"Reduced emissions contribute to a clean environment. The option of reservations is user-friendly, particularly for female drivers with children and disabled drivers," he adds.

Aside from these obvious benefits, the car park system is also used for effective space utilization for high capacity turnover, proper space allotment and statistical analysis.

The car park is only one of the systems provided by Siemens Building Technologies.

The Switzerland-based firm also put up the systems for air control, chillers and ventilation to meet tenant requirements.



TOYOTA ALABANG, Alabang Zapote Road, cor. Concha Cruz Drive Las Piñas, M M 800 0801 to 32/ 802 1991 TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY, Gardenville Subdivision, Araneta St., Bacolod City (034) 444-1811 to 13 TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY, Bokawkan Road cor. Aguila St. Baguio City (074) 300-3273 to 74/ (074) 443-6778 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK-MAIN EDSA cor. Vicente Ang & Gen. Evangelista Sts., Kalookan City 366-8901 to 06/ 364-1547 to 50/ 364-4071 to 75 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK-NORTH, 1010 Epifanio Delos Santos Ave. (EDSA), Quezon City 927-7215 / 17 / 30 / 39 / 927-7242 / 44 / 48 / 52 / 927-7257/ 62/ 65/ 927-7268 / 69 TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, Diversion Road, Barangay Balagtas Batangas City (043) 723-7386 TOYOTA BEL-AIR, Ayala cor. Metropolitan Aves., Makati City 897-3333 TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY, Km. 118 Maharlika Highway, Daang Sarile, Cabanatuan City (044) 463-8481 to 87 TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Km. 3 National Highway, Kauswagan, Cagayan De Oro City (08822) 735-770/791/ 846/ (088) 858-9994/ (088) 858-7770 TOYOTA CEBU CITY, 34 M.J. Cuenco St. Cebu City (032) 253-1161 TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE Tabok, Mandaue City (032) 345-8670 TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City 952-1021 to 27 TOYOTA CUBAO MAIN, 926 Aurora Blvd., Cubao Quezon City 911-0851 to 63 TOYOTA CUBAO MARIKINA Brgy Sto Niño, Sumulong Highway cor. Toyota Ave., Marikina City 933-8631 to 34/ 682-2684 TOYOTA DAGUPAN CITY, Diversion Road, Barangay San Miguel, Calasiao, Pangasinan (075) 522-6771/ 6734 (075) 517-2026 to 28 TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, Km. 6 Lanang, Davao City (082) 234-0998/ (082) 234-2994/ (082) 234-8840 TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, Gran Plains Subd., Jaro, Iloilo City, (033) 320-6115 to 19 TOYOTA MANILA BAY, Roxas Boulevard cor. EDSA Extension Pasay City 832-3408 to 10/ 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3384/ 832-3437 TOYOTA OTIS, 1770 Paz M. Guazon St., Paco, Manila 564-1811 to 20 TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, 2292 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City 893-8084 TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, 728 Quezon Ave., Quezon City 712-5001 to 09 TOYOTA SHAW-MAIN, 411 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City 727-0201 to 24 TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS, 124 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City 671-9854 to 64

Fifty-year-old peanut brittle venture started with P10

PHOTOS BY RAY B. ZAMBRANO

Romana Peanut Brittle manager Rafael De Vera and owner Romana De Vera at the labeling area of the factory.

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

MANGALDAN, Pangasinan—Talk of peanut brittle in this town and chances are the name Romana will crop up.

The Romana Peanut Brittle has been produced in this town for almost five decades and has become an institution. Almost always, people who visit Pangasinan would drop by the Romana stores and factory to buy a pack or two of peanut brittle.

People going abroad also bring the product as *pasalubong* to their friends and relatives.

The woman behind Romana—Romana de Vera, now 70—started the production of the sweet delicacy in the 1950s. As a young wife and mother, she was devoted to taking care of her husband Federico and their two children then. But cooking was a passion for her, and she loved concocting delicious meals for her family and friends.

PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

To hone her cooking skills, De Vera took up a culinary course and focused on producing peanut brittle. But she revised the school's recipe, experimenting on taste and consistency. Her husband Federico, who was a chemical engineering student then, helped her concoct a "better formula" to improve the product.

"First I would make peanut brittle and give them away to my friends. But they would tell me to make more so they can buy and give them to their friends. It was like a chain reaction—friends of friends would order. I was getting a lot of orders so I decided to a make a business out of peanut brittle," De Vera told the INQUIRER.

With P10 as capital (which she said she borrowed from a brother-in-law), she bought some *gantas* of peanuts, sugar and other ingredients to start the business. Whatever she earned from her sales, she poured into her home-based business.

"It helped that we were living with my in-laws," she recalled. "My parents-in-law won't let us share in the house expenses so my capital and profit were not touched."

When their third child, Silvana, was born, De Vera's production was already full-scale and she tried to market her product in Bagiuo City, a major tourist destination.

She asked a neighbor, who was a vegetable vendor, to bring boxes of peanut brittle to the city and always, these were sold out.

It did not take long and De Vera started "invading" the Baguio market, getting orders from vendors in the city. "I would pack the product in boxes and send these through buses (that ply the Dagupan-Mangaldan-Baguio route daily)," she said.

In 1960, her business was growing fast that her little capital cannot cover the expenses. She applied for a P20,000-loan from a bank to buy cooking utensils and other materials needed for her expansion. Her husband resigned from his job in Manila and helped in the business.

"Our product label then was typewritten. Later, it was screen-printed. We also had problems with the glass bottles because many would break during transport," she said.

Family business

Today, the Romana Peanut Brittle remains a family business, employing 36 people.

ROMANA de Vera is doing the cooking at the peanut brittle factory in Guiguilonen, Mangaldan

Thirty employees work in the factory in Barangay Guiguilonen while six tend De Vera's two stores—the Romana Patio near the Mangaldan Catholic Church and the Romana Store in Barangay Guiguilonen where the peanut brittle was "born."

The product label is now commercially printed and the firm uses plastic bottles to package the products.

The workers, who are mostly relatives and who have been with the company through the years, are still there.

"Most of their children work for us, too," De Vera said.

The ingredients of the peanut brittle, she said, remain the same—peanut, sugar, fresh butter, corn syrup and baking soda.

But the "formula" is a tightly guarded secret, with De Vera's brother Manuel taking charge of the factory's "formula room." Even the cooking room is strictly guarded, she said.

Many businessmen wanted to imitate Romana's flavor, even to the extent of pirating the company's workers.

She said there was a time that an employee who was in charge of the factory's "formula room" was paid by another businessman to learn the product's secret.

De Vera immediately fired the employee when she learned about his indiscretion.

"I changed the formula again, improving it even better," she said.

De Vera said producing peanut brittle is labor-intensive, because everything is done manually—from cleaning the peanuts to cooking to packing.

She said she asked a local inventor to design machines for "stretching (or flattening)" the cooked peanut brittle. But it did not work.

"I guess it is better that we do it manually or many workers will lose their jobs," she added.

De Vera said she was using peanuts grown in Pangasinan, La Union and Negros Oriental and Occidental in the Visayas in the early years of her business but the supply was not enough to satisfy their needs. She also said some peanuts, especially those grown and harvested from the Visayas, would reach Pangasinan rotten due to a relatively longer shipment period.

She tried financing the planting of peanuts in different towns in Pangasinan but no one among the farmers she contracted was able to produce enough to supply her factory.

She said the farmers would tell her that the harvest was bad or cite some other reasons, so she stopped the practice and resorted to importing raw peanuts.

De Vera said she started importing peanuts from China, India and Vietnam sometime in 1987.

Other products

De Vera has also developed other food products from peanuts such as peanut butter and peanut *adobo*.

She also makes native chocolate tablets that attracted a big market.

She recalled that when she was starting her business, some neighbors offered to sell her cacao seeds. "I bought them and made chocolate tablets for home consumption," she said.

Later, seeds were constantly being sold to her that she decided to add the product to her business.

She said her husband did not like the idea at first, but he was awestruck when her chocolate tablets disappeared from her store counters fast.

The chocolate tablets retail for P24.50 per pack of seven tablets.

De Vera's daughter Silvana, who was always beside her and saw how the business grew, learned to make corn fritters, *pastillas* and *polvoron*. These products are now marketed under the label Romana.

De Vera said their peanut brittle has been exported to various countries and was known when then First Lady Imelda Marcos helped in marketing Philippine products in her international sorties.

The De Vera family does not directly export its products, but many exporters buy Romana products and export it.

De Vera said their biggest market is still the local market, specifically Baguio City.

There are about 30 brands of peanut brittle being sold in Baguio, but De Vera is not perturbed.

"Besides, (customers) can taste the difference," she said.

De Vera, who is still on top of the business' day to day operations, said if she wanted to, her business could grow bigger than it already is. But she did not want the quality compromised over quantity.

"We actually limit our market, so we only have two stores in Mangaldan," she said.

She also tries to maintain the affordable price of Romana products, even if the costs of the ingredients have gone up.

The peanut brittle is retailed from P10.75 for the 60-gram pack to P129 for the 800-gram pack.

"When it cannot be helped, we just add the increased cost of the ingredients," she said.

De Vera said it was hard work, perseverance and faith in God that enabled her to make a success out of her home business. Her husband died of heart attack in 1986, leaving her alone to take care of their 10 children.

"I prayed to God that since He gave me plenty of children, He should give me the strength and capability to sustain them. And He did," she said.

The De Vera couple has 10 children but the youngest child (together with his wife and a child) died in a car accident six years ago. The nine De Vera children are all professionals.

Treat client's business as your own

FERRERIA

EASTMONT Advertising Inc., a full-service advertising agency, marks its eighth year in the industry this month.

Mabbi Vasallo-Ferreria, president and GM, recalls how the company has weathered all the tests through the years, including the drop in ad spending due to the weak economy.

"As we know, ad spending is like a barometer of the economic situation, but fortunately, we had clients who knew that they can gain brand equity after the storm is over. Besides, commodities and services are always a sure thing with the consumers," she adds.

Ferreria believes that last year's theme in the advertising congress is just what catapults sales via advertising efforts—and that is speaking the language of the target market.

"We at EAI would always treat the clients' business as our own and it's such a thrill for us when we get the report that our ad efforts are so effective," she says.

She, however, shares the common sentiment of most advertising practitioners that there are clients who are still apprehensive about thinking "out of the box" and trying different approaches to promote their products.

"I believe that Filipino ads can be just as competitive and comparable to that of foreign ads without hurting the sensibilities of our culture," she says.

Ferreria is also pleased to announce the appointment of Cristina Pentinio (media manager), Jake Gonzales (account supervisor), Aida Serna (executive assistant administration) and Ringo Mendoza (senior copywriter) as new EAI business partners.

"I believe these associates of mine will all the more help steer Eastmont to greater heights as they continue to demonstrate efficiency and loyalty to our clientele and management," she says.

Ferreria is likewise grateful to all past and present clients who gave full trust and confidence in her team.

"It has been an interesting eight years," she says, "but we are really geared up to climb and conquer more mountains ahead."

Boomers may leave trillions of dollars for children to invest

NEW YORK—The post-baby boom generation can expect to receive not only life's lessons passed down, but a hefty $30.6 trillion over the next 50 years—at least by one expert's estimate.

The big question is what will the inheritors do with the money, which is almost triple the value of today's stock market.

There are no studies on the subject, but at least some of that cash and other wealth are expected to roll into stocks and other financial assets if they haven't already been invested.

Conventional wisdom has been that boomer families—the roughly 46 million whose household heads were born between 1946 and 1965—would start to use this accumulated wealth for retirement.

That would involve selling stocks and other financial assets, which would drain dollars from equity markets.

But one study indicates that even boomers liquidating assets for their golden years will pass on a significant amount to their children—money that even if spent on consumer goods, rather than investments, may help underpin the stock market.

Some baby boomers who earned a lot of money over the years could even make more off their investments than they spend in retirement, according to John Havens, a senior research associate at the Social Welfare Research Center in Boston.

Cash transferred

Assuming a 2-percent annualized economic growth rate over the period 1998 to 2052, when the estates of the last boomers are transferred, heirs other than the spouse will receive $11.4 trillion, Havens told Reuters.

That's roughly the value of the US stock market today, with the stocks in the Wilshire 5000 index <.TMW>, the broadest measure of the US market, adding up to $11.2 trillion this week.

At 3-percent economic growth, boomer children pick up $18.8 trillion. If the economy kicks along at an annualized rate of 4 percent, heirs may receive $30.6 trillion.

And with Haven's analysis of wealth based on the 1998 Survey of Consumer Finances, the most recently available survey of wealth sponsored by the Federal Reserve, the estimated amounts to be passed down to heirs are in dollars.

What to do?

What heirs do with their cash will depend on when they get the check, according to Norman Duncan, a retail broker with Vancouver, British Columbia-based Canaccord Capital Corp. He has advised several clients with newly acquired money.

"If they receive it at age 24, they're most likely to spend it on a house with 20 to 25 percent going into the market," Duncan told Reuters. "At (age) 35 or beyond, the person usually has a house with low interest rates so they put as much as 75 percent of the cash into the market or another financial assets."

But even if those inheriting money just spend it, it's still good news for the market.

"There will be pressure on equity markets as boomers take money out, but on the other side there will be spending" as their children spend it, said Gil Knight, a money manager with Baltimore-based Allied Investment Advisors, which oversees $11 billion.

"If the consumer is spending, it has to be good for the economy, corporate profits and ultimately good for stocks," he said.

Too many variables

Other money managers say there are too many variables to predict the amount of cash that may be passed to boomer offspring.

"If estate taxes are phased out there will be more money left" to pass on, said Fred Taylor, chief investment officer with US Trust Co., which oversees $90 billion in assets. "Of course, there may be less than anticipated if the market takes some away."

The Democrat-led US Senate blocked an election-year bid by Republicans, backed by business groups, to permanently repeal estate taxes on Wednesday. Republicans wish to make permanent a provision in last year's $1.35-trillion tax cut that phases out estate taxes by 2010. Without congressional action, the tax would be reinstated in 2011.

But if there is a significant amount of inheritance money waiting to be spent, Taylor also has a clear perspective on what stocks may benefit.

"One thing to buy are the shares of financial services firms," Taylor told Reuters. "With so much money being handed on, there will be a continuing need for solid advice as to what to do with it."

Reuters

She followed her mom's advice not to work for other people

From page B3

Landmark in Makati which she still maintains.

She expanded later to the Robinson's Department Store at Robinson's Galleria, then Robinson's in Bacolod and SM Deparment Store in Megamall.

She opened her first outlet at the third level of Robinson's Galleria with an expanded product line that includes bags and hair accessories.

Cheryl designs her own clothes based on what she sees in her travels. Her business gives her an excuse to indulge in what she likes to do best, which is to shop.

Her "bible" is the runway edition of an Italian magazine that shows the new trends in fashion. She adapts these designs to the local setting.

Cheryl keeps tabs on what her clients want by constantly getting feedback from her sales ladies.

She also takes notes of some quirks of the Filipina shopper, which explains why one product will sell well in one outlet, but not in another.

Cheryl also notices that her clients do not like linen because the cloth easily gets rumpled and that more mature women patronize her clothes even if she targets the 14- to 28-year-old age range.

Among her biggest problems these days is what she refers to as the "China invasion," or the flooding of cheap clothes from China

Even the button business that she put up with her old partner Sabrina was affected as China produces so much plastic and clothes, while Buttons and Notions sold hand-made buttons, thus, are more expensive.

She says she tried once to source her raw materials from China but later regretted it—as the Lycra cloth she bought at half the local price shrunk after one wash.

Cheryl admits that her business is very tough these days.

Department stores impose a quota on the volume that a brand sells. She feels fortunate that Ivory Coast manages to land among Robinson's top five best-selling brands.

She adds that there comes a point when the clothing industry has to work with the same cloth.

The key to surviving, she says, is to stay ahead of China. You must have a different style or different look for your clothes by the time that China starts producing similar designs.

Cheryl also stresses the value of keeping a healthy cash flow. She also managed to keep a tab on inventory—striking the formula of just how much to produce and what kind. Excess inventory is immediately put on sale.

Cheryl, a very cool, unperturbed person, wants to open more individual stores. She is in no rush but she feels she is ready now that Ivory Coast has weathered problems such as a 40-percent drop in sales.

She says she got over the slump and she is now enjoying brisk sales. She for one feels the economy is improving and it can only move upward.

THE GOAL is to expand the individual stores.

Turtle-shaped bread sold in a store called 'Apple'

"PAGPIPIGURA." Forming the dough into small "turtle-house-like" figure.

From page B16

sile and guava trees. This firewood would keep the old-style concrete oven maintain just the right amount of heat for the mashed flour in the furnace turn into piping hot *pinagong* or any other kind of popular bread product like *apas*, *broas* or mammon.

The firewood, bought in from Barangay Tumbaga, costs P450 for every jeep-load and lasts for at least five days of baking, Albiol said.

He gave a simple arithmetic of the *pinagong* business: one sack of flour equals 1,000 pieces of toasted *pinagong*; a single baking tray would carry at least 30 pieces of *pinagong*; and Apple Bakery consumes at least three sacks of flour a day for the popular snack bread alone.

To complete the lecture, he gave an impromptu demonstration on the art of baking *pinagong*.

After mixing the basic ingredients of flour, sugar, skim milk and lard in one of the electric mixers, Albiol put the dough atop a working table and immediately formed it into turtle-carapace-like pieces, which he then arranged on a baking pan or *plancha*.

A helper then made rows of thin slices at the top of the turtle-like piece using a small knife.

Before putting the pan inside the oven for 20 minutes, the helper, using a small brush, rubbed the top of the shaped dough with melted skim milk to bring out the toasted look of the bread when done.

All in all, the entire process of producing the palatable and tasty *pinagong* took a little short of one hour to finish.

"In baking *pinagong*, one no longer needs to wait for the dough to rise because there is no yeast ingredient. It goes straight to the oven after the 'pagpipigura' or forming step," the baker stressed.

The trio of Albiol, Ronnel Belen, with seven years baking experience, and Tony Gunda, with 15 years experience, compose the Apple Bakery's day-shift bakers.

The night shift is composed of four bread makers. "They are in charge of baking *pandesal* and other morning bread. The day shift takes care of the *pinagong*," Albiol said.

Apple Bakery, which does not have any other branch, opens at four in the morning and closes at eight in the evening.

Market

"A piece of *pinagong* costs P1.25. But if one buys in big volume, we add some more pieces as extra," Tan said.

He stressed that they intentionally mold their bread small, a size of a child's fist. "If it's too big, it could not be avoided that the inside of the bread could end up still raw. We want our *pinagong* perfect for our customer's satisfaction."

But he added that they also accept orders for a big-size *pinagong* for P5 each.

"Even in small quantity, it does not matter. Because we will just get the dough for it from the same mash that we have for the small ones. No problem," he pointed out.

In the '60s, peddlers of Sariaya's *pinagong* traveled all the way to Lucena City in old sturdy bikes. They would time it with the break time of the thousands of students in the city.

They put the hot bread inside a huge rattan basket covered with clean cloth from flour sack. The basket was strapped at the back of the bike with the rider constantly pressing his horn to signal his arrival.

At that time, *pinagong*, which was a little bigger than the present size, was only 25 centavos.

Now, *pinagong* peddlers hop from one passenger bus to another selling four pieces of the bread wrapped in plastic for P10. Almost all eateries, which also double as "*pasalubong*" centers that line up along the Maharlika Highway, also offer the popular snack bread in the counter.

But Tan still prefers his bread to be bought straight from his bakery. "For me, it's a mortal sin to offer a cold *pinagong* to a first-timer. He cannot experience that unforgettable first bite into one kind of snack bread, piping hot and fresh from the oven, that is being enjoyed not only by the rich but also by the peasants."

To absolutely observe that cardinal rule, Tan said he reminds his staff of six storekeepers to always preserve the freshness of the bread.

"Besides, we have a-not-so-good experience when it comes to peddlers. The list of non-remitted capital tends to grow longer and longer, then all of a sudden the vendor that you trust will just vanish and we will be left holding the list," he lamented.

Tan just shrugged his shoulder as a sign of resignation when the conversation shifted to the present cost of the basic bread ingredients.

"When I took over, a sack of flour cost me around P140, now it is P380 to P400. But no matter what the prices of the ingredients are, Apple's *pinagong* will continue to be a part of Sariaya's cultural heritage," he said.

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

4As brings back the '70s with 'First Quarter Storm'

THE TUMULTUOUS cries of the '70s were hurtled back to the present day at Rockwell Center, the posh and exclusive playground of Makati's elite, the perfect venue for an anti-bourgoisie uprising, during the launch of the 4A's Advertising Summit aptly titled "The First Quarter Storm."

Startled guests were greeted by the grimacing faces of strangely outfitted "protestors", and then frisked by "armed soldiers" in fatigues. Was this a re-run of a '70s documentary? Upon realizing that the excitement was just part of a show—a welcoming gimmick (guests temporarily forgot that the hosts were inspired and driven advertisers)—the humored guests anxiously awaited the next round of "victims".

The launch of the 4As' Advertising Summit was an entertaining and clever build-up to the upcoming three-day seminar slated from Aug. 29, 30 and 31 targeted at fellow advertisers and college students raring to get a concentrated dose of the industry and a glimpse into the art and science that goes into advertising.

"The First Quarter Storm" pays tribute to the idealism and earnest fervor with which the youth pursued their belief in justice during the '70s—the perfect conditions that ignited the hearts and minds of the 4As' founders. It was a time of seeing beyond convention, exploring the outer limits of what was possible. It is with this spirit that the 4As commemorates its 25th year. Likewise, it is with this spirit that the Association welcomes the future—visionary, change-driven in the face of new challenges and hurdles, as Philippine advertising rediscovers its Filipino identity.

NOISY protesters reenact national demonstrations of the '70s calling for revolution, change, and the downfall of oppressors.

FROM LEFT, Billy Rockwell, Miguel Ramos, Venus Navalta, Hermie de Leon, Pepito Olarte, June Estrella and Rommel Herrera.

2002 4As officers and board of directors, from left, Miguel Ramos (vice president), Tong Puno (president), March Ventosa, Cyril dela Rama, Boy Pangilinan (chair), Randy Aquino (comptroller), Socky Pitargue (board secretary), and Billy Rockwell.

Chevalier Philippine office to expand home appliance network

CHEVALIER (HK) Limited Philippine Branch Office bared plans to expand its home appliance distribution network in the country to include areas in Visayas and Mindanao toward the second half of 2002.

In the beginning of 2001, the Chevalier Philippine branch began importing small electrical home appliances and forging distribution arrangements with major appliance dealers in Luzon. This saw the birth of the appliance division of Chevalier (HK) Limited in the Philippines.

Currently marketing the Galanz line of microwave ovens and the ABC Electro range of small appliances which include flat irons, blenders, mixers, juicers, and toasters, Chevalier has become an important player in the local microwave and small home appliances market in less than two years.

"This can be attributed to the superior quality and competitive prices of our products, coupled with the strong commitment of our local dealers to delivering aggressive and consumer-driven sales and after-sales services," explained Chevalier (HK) Ltd. country manager Cirilo Jayco.

Galanz is one of the world's leading manufacturers in the home electrical field, with products exported to more than 80 countries and territories in the world, its microwave ovens sharing 35 percent of the global market. ABC Electro boasts of high-performance blenders, multi-functional mixers, automatic egg cookers, lightweight and easy-to-use flat irons and double-cone, anti-drip juicers.

Noritake bodega sale ends today

THE NORITAKE Bodega Sale of factory seconds at the Philtrade, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, has been extended until today, June 16.

The finest name in chinaware, Noritake plates, particularly plain white wares, are commonly used in many homes, hotels, and restaurants and other eateries.

Jojo Quinga of the marketing and special sales department of Noritake, said the bodega sale at Hall 8, Philippine Trade Training Center across the Department of Foreign Affairs, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, offers a good location, more designs, but the same prices as those offered in the Marikina plant, with discounts of up to 70 percent.

Besides the low prices, a special promo of free three salad plates for every P2,000 worth of purchase is offered.

He said among the variety of designs that can be seen at the bodega sale are the ardmore gold platinum, crestwood gold, cobalt blue, and platinum. All stocks are being replenished. Quinga added that there is a big bargain on plainwhite plates with fine China quality for as low as P20 per piece.

Also available are hotel and restaurant plates—plainwhite dinner plates, salad plates, soup plates, platters, cups, and consumer bowls at giveaway prices of up to 80 percent discount.

He said export-quality Noritake plates are ideal gifts for the June bride, for anniversaries, birthdays, and other special occasions. Shoppers can also start early for their Christmas gifts to avoid the rush.

The hall will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For other inquiries, call the Marikina plant at 948-4876 or call 0917-8480612.

HIDDEN VALE AWARDS WINNER

Hidden Vale Sports Club in Angeles City was the venue recently of the American Legion Post #123 where retired Filipino and American war veterans celebrated their 25th anniversary with their respective families. The three-day celebration was highlighted with sports events. Shown is Hidden Vale chair Greg J. McDougall, managing director of the club developer Ausworld Development Corp awarding the trophy to one of the amateur boxing winners. Avail of Hidden Vale membership, or simply enjoy its facilities. Visit www.hidden-vale.com or call 687-0595/96, fax 687-0594, or its Pampanga office at (045)892-3443.

APSOP, SOLARIS IN PUERTO AZUL SHOOTOUT

Top photographers and photo enthusiasts, together with high-caliber models and topnotch designer Edwin Uy converged in Puerto Azul at the recently concluded bridal shootout this April and May. The best photographs graced the pages of Lights & Camera on its bridal issue for May and June. The Association of Photo Studio Owners of the Philippines (Apsop) spearheaded this photo session and co-organized by Sanly Corp., the exclusive distributor of Solaris Film in the Philippines. Puerto Azul was the major sponsor.

CLOROX AT AMERICAN FOOD SHOW

Clorox International Philippines Inc., makers of Glad Wraps and Bags, through its distributor Getz Bros. Phil. Inc., recently joined the American Food Show 2002 exhibit held at the Hotel Intercon Manila. Shown are (from left) Ramon Cruz, business development manager, Getz Bros. Phil., Tisha Marie C. de Veyra, marketing manager, Clorox International Phil. Inc., and US Ambassador to the Philippines Francis J. Ricciardone.

BITS Clips

Dad's day at SM

TREAT Dad to a weekend of fun-filled activities as the SM Supermalls celebrate Father's Day on June 16. Buy him that special gift at the SM Department Store or any store in the mall. Or you can check out the Whattadad fair featuring coffee, wine, cigars and gadgets today at SM Supercenter Sucat and SM City Fairview. Father's Day fun begins at 11 a.m. today at SM Megamall, as Family Reader's Time Out With Dad features exciting games, giveaways, and entertainment. Cook Out With Dad in San Miguel and Tefal's cooking demos. These will be held on June 21 at the SM Megamall and on June 28 at the SM City North-Edsa.

Celebrate Philippines at Bayview Park

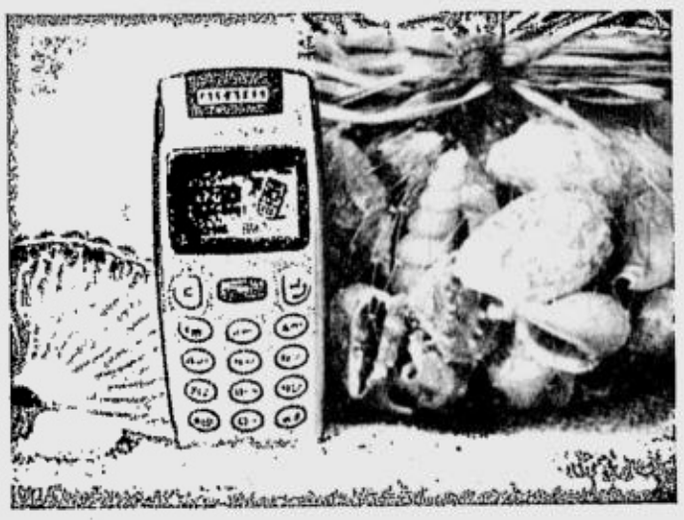
IN TIME for the 104th celebration of Philippine independence, Bayview Park Hotel Manila located at the corner of Roxas Boulevard and UN Avenue, presents "Celebrate Philippines!" a 20-day festivity featuring an arts and crafts festival at the lobby. Crafts from all over the country will be on display and for sale. These include woodworks from Ilocos, tapestry and handloom woven textiles from the Mountain Province, brassware and Muslim crafts from Mindanao, and the latest high-fashion accessories made from native materials. The festival also features an art exhibit about the "Two Fisherman" by positivism art exponent ER Tagle. The exhibit is open to the public,and admission is free. For details, call Philtrade Exhibits at 820-7879 or 820-1570.

NEW YORK LIFE CONFAB QUALIFIERS

New York Life Insurance Philippines (NYLIP) recently presented its eight qualifiers who went to New York May 28 to June 2 for New York Life's International Convention. The qualifiers were announced at NYLIP's Vegas Night festivities. They were joined by (from left) Saloon Tham, NYLIP chief financial officer, Robert Craddock, VP for specialty marketing, George May, NYLIP president and CEO (in Arab costume), and Kenn Ramirez, VP for agency distribution (far right).

Product FILES

Alcatel's newest, the One Touch 511



ALCATEL Philippines, one of the world's largest communication companies, recently launched its newest and ultra-light cell phone, the One Touch 511—the lightest in the market at 75 grams. One Touch 511 is the ideal communication tool for those looking for lightness, style and innovative functions on their phones.

One Touch 511 provides an entirely new acoustical environment, incorporating new polyphonic capabilities with a guarantee of optimal sound quality. It allows you to record the melody of your choice. In addition, Alcatel has made it possible for users to download (via SMS or short messages) a large choice of icons and melodies, including polyphonic melodies. The same goes for fixed and animated icons. Thanks to the new EMS standard (Enhanced Messaging Service), a development of SMS that has been adopted by Alcatel and other leading handset manufacturers.

The Alcatel One Touch 511 also boasts of games on the "Starshot" universe and story developed by Infogames. These games, which rely on a mixture of action and reflection, offer a truly user-friendly graphical and acoustical interface.

The latest Alcatel phone also has a full range of useful functions that Alcatel is known for: voice memo, voice recognition for 50 names, vibrator, hands-free operation, a storage directory, SMS-EMS back-lighting, as well as the new zoom function. It comes with a lithium ion battery that offers 300 hours of standby time and six hours of talk time.

Alcatel is currently the fifth largest GSM mobile phone vendor in the world and is among the top five mobile phone vendors in New Zealand, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines.

Is ₱1,000 a day for F & B affordable enough for you?

HOW much do you spend when you take out your family for a weekend vacation?

One place in Clark wants to limit a vacationer's expense to P1,000 a day per person for food and beverage.

Thus says David G. de Padua, the new general manager of Clearwater Country Club, a P400-million resort being set up at the Clark Special Economic Zone.

The P1,000 cost does not yet include of course the accommodation which will depend on the size of the place.

Clearwater is owned and operated by YI Leisure (Clark) Inc. and is open to members only. Membership costs P360,000, up from the P350,000 cost at the start of the year. De Padua says however the cost is discounted at P310,000 if paid in cash.

Installment terms are available. A 36-month payment scheme is available from Chinatrust Banking and BPI Family.

The cost may seem steep but it may be considered cheaper than buying a weekend house.

"We want our members to get value for their money," says de Padua, the former GM of the Baguio Country Club when it was rebuilt in 1993 after the terrible 1990 earthquake destroyed it.

So far De Padua says they have 300 members, many of whom have already been invited to swim in a portion of the 3-hectare lake that is being built.

Many of the members are residents of Clark.

No major marketing campaign has yet been undertaken except via word of mouth or via the network of Clearwater executives.

De Padua says the strategy has been personal selling.

Clearwater is licensed to sell 4,000 shares by the Securities and Exchange Commission. They are targeting 1,000 this year.

The target market is the younger generation Manila Polo Club habitués, according to De Padua, as the price range is more attuned to them and the place itself is geared toward young families.

De Padua was recently taken on board as

DE PADUA

general manager of Clearwater. He has been in the hospitality industry for 30 years.

Hi strength lies in food and beverage operations and human resource management.

De Padua is a Grèen Archer since high school. He finished a degree in literature from De La Salle University in 1973 then proceeded to study hotel and restaurant management at the University of Denver. He also has a certification in properties management in Cornell University in New York. ***Margie Q. Espino***

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on June 25, 2002 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

The Agenda for the Meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2001 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 29, 2001
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2001
5. Approval of the 2001 Annual Report
6. Approval of the Reduction of the Par Value of the Corporation's Common Shares from Sixty Pesos (P60.00) to Forty Pesos (P40.00), Resulting in the Decrease of the Authorized Capital Stock from P50,000,000,040.00 Divided into 833,333,334 Common Shares to P33,333,333,360.00 Divided into 833,333,334 Common Shares and the Amendment for this Purpose of Article Seventh of the Amended Articles of Incorporation
7. Approval of the Increase in the Authorized Capital Stock from P33,333,333,360.00 Divided into 833,333,334 Common Shares to P50,000,000,040.00 Divided into 1,054,824,557 Common Shares and 195,175,444 Preferred Shares with a Par Value of P40.00 Per Share
8. Issuance of 195,175,444 Preferred Shares to PDIC as Partial Payment for P7,807M Worth of Previously Contracted Loans
9. Ratification of All Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2001 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
10. Election of Directors
11. Appointment of External Auditor
12. Other Matters
13. Adjournment

Minutes of the last Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors starting from June 26, 2001 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary. In addition, copies of the minutes of the last Annual Stockholders' Meeting will also be made available at the meeting venue for stockholders who wish to examine the minutes but who were unable to do so prior to the meeting.

Only stockholders of record as of May 31, 2002 will be entitled to vote at this meeting. For this purpose, the Stock and Transfer Books of the Corporation will be closed from June 17 to June 24, 2002.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a **PROXY** instrument to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. of June 20, 2002. A proxy instrument shall conform with the requirements of Sec. 58 of the Corporate Code, and shall be affixed with a duly paid documentary stamp tax in accordance with Sec. 192 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997.

Pasay City, May 17, 2002

MA. CECILIA L. PESAYCO
Corporate Secretary

BMW Promotion
BMW 525IA
Limousine

BMW
Select Finance Plan

The Ultimate
Driving Machine

For all those who are exceptionally successful, BMW has now created a truly exceptional automobile. From style to perfomance, from technology to driving pleasure – The BMW 525iA Limousine is the benchmark in every aspect. You probably have to experience it for yourself to feel what that really means: powered by BMW technology, with a unique sense of style and exclusivity. The BMW 525iA Limousine now presents another benchmark – the BMW Finance plan.

3 years to pay at 0% interest for the 525iA Limousine.

	UNIT PRICE	DOWNPAYMENT	NET MONTHLY INSTALLMENT
525iA Limousine	P 3,175,000.00	P 1,587,500.00	P 44,097.22

Subject to bank approval.

The list of selected units for this plan is available at all authorised BMW dealers. **Quickly visit your authorised BMW dealers until June 30, 2002** — and join the BMW world of top class motoring.

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Prestige Cars, Inc. 184-A E. Rodriguez Ave. Libis, Quezon City • Tel. Nos. 638-07-34 to 43 • 438-04-22 • Fax 438-04-19 **Prestige Cars Makati, Inc.** 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension Makati City • Tel. Nos. 892-81-27 to 29 • 817-80-49 • Fax 816-73-25

++ Selected units only. Please ask your authorised BMW dealers for the specific models included in the promotion. Price may vary from actual model.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1950 Series of 2002

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Mr. Mario A. Espino, Jr.
Chairman/CEO of Total Care Staffing Services, LLC Florida, USA will conduct the seminars:

ZAMBOANGA	June 20	9 am 2 pm	Waling-waling Function Room, Garden Orchid Hotel, Zamboanga City
	June 21	8 am	
DAVAO	June 21	9 am 2 pm	Vanda Function Room, Apo View Hotel, Davao City
	June 22	9 am 2 pm	
LAOAG	June 25	9 am 2 pm	Hawaiian Function Room, Palazzo de Laoag Hotel, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte
VIGAN	June 26	9 am 2 pm	The Conference Room, Cordillera Inn, Vigan , Ilocos Sur

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We are a key player in the fastfood industry carrying a popular multinational brand. In support of our expansion program, we are eagerly inviting **highly competent individuals** *to join our team as*

FRANCHISE DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS

who will be responsible for

Potential retail site identification ▪ Site feasibility study preparation ▪ Business plan presentation ▪ New franchise outlet application processing and negotiation ▪ Retail outlet/store profitability evaluation ▪ Management of existing group of franchise retail outlets within area coverage

Areas of Assignment:

Daraga, Albay ▪ Bacolod ▪ Baguio ▪ Balanga, Bataan ▪ Batac, Ilocos Sur ▪ Batangas ▪ Calasiao ▪ Cebu ▪ Iloilo ▪ Lucena, Quezon ▪ Metro Manila ▪ Sta.Rosa, Nueva Ecija

Graduate of Management Engineering, Business Management or other related courses with Finance and Marketing subjects ▪ Ability to communicate in the local dialect a plus ▪ Willing to do fieldwork ▪ Assertive and results-oriented ▪ Fluent in verbal and written English ▪ Outgoing and comfortable in dealing with other people ▪ Proficient in MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint ▪ With valid driver's license ▪ Related work experience an advantage ▪ Preferably Male, 21 to 35 years of age; in good health

BUSINESS ANALYST

who will be responsible for

Collation of sales reports, analysis of numbers and preparation of recommendations to Management ▪ Development of a demand forecasting model to determine efficient levels of sales stock requirements based on historical sales figures

Graduate of Management Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Statistics or other Business-related courses with above average scholastic records ▪ Strong in Statistics, linear programming and operations research modeling ▪ Very proficient in MS Excel and PowerPoint ▪ Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Send your resume, 2x2 recent ID picture, transcript of records, a brief essay of at least 200 words describing yourself and an application letter stating your preferred area/s of assignment and why we should choose you over other applicants, to:

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A competitive compensation and benefits package awaits successful candidates.
Send your application **NOW!**

JOB OPPORTUNITY

A leading foreign company engaged in agriculture business is looking for a top caliber **AGRONOMIST** with the following qualifications:

- Graduate of BS in Agriculture;
- With minimum of four years experience in commercial crop production;
- With basic knowledge on soilless culture of different vegetable crops;
- Very knowledgeable about plant nutrition;
- Can communicate effectively to clients;
- Excellent interpersonal and leadership skills;
- Male or Female; and
- At least 30 years old

The successful applicant will be based in Metro Manila and will cover the Luzon area market.

The company offers above industry salary package and excellent company benefits.

Interested applicants can send their application letters and resumé by mail or fax to:

The Human Resource Manager
c/o ICD Corporation
9638 Pililla Street, Makati City
Fax No. 02-8975263

Only short-listed applicants will be notified for interview.

Where you find the best.

JOB MARKET
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB OPENING

English Teacher

- BSE/BSED graduate / 18 units in education
- PRC license / teaching experience preferred

Applicants should be of Good Christian Moral Character and computer literate.
Previous applicants need not apply
Bring resumé and transcript of records to...

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1) Male or female
2) At least 22 years old
3) With experience in selling identification (ID) cards and ID Computer System

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Health Care Placement Services, Inc. (HCPS) of NEW YORK, U.S.A.

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Ms. Joan Madden founded Health Care Placement Services, Inc. in 1984. Prior to this date, she was the Director of Nursing at Bellevue Hospital Center during which time she received her Advanced. Certified Nursing Administration from the American Nurses Association.

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Joan has worked closely with nurses from all over the world; She understands your dedication as nurses, your concern for your families, and your desire to succeed in the U.S.A.

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Manila	Group 1	June 17-July 5, 2002	2nd Floor, Manila Midtown Hotel
	Group 2	June 17-July 3, 2002	2nd Floor, Manila Midtown Hotel
Cebu		June 19-July 5, 2002	JMR Building, #35 V. Rama Cor. Katipunan St. Labangon, Cebu City
Iloilo		June 14-July 4, 2002	Rm. 201 Viosil's Arcade, M. H. Del Pilar St., Molo, Iloilo City

SCHEDULES	TOEFL	TSE	NCLEX
MANILA Business Center Manila Midtown Hotel Pedro Gil, Ermita, Manila	June 19 - 21, 2002	June 19 - 21, 2002	June 14 - 30, 2002
CEBU JMR Building #35 V. Rama Cor. Katipunan St. Labangon, Cebu City Cell No. 0916 - 847 7167	June 14 - 16, 2002	June 14 - 16, 2002	June 14 - 30, 2002
ILOILO Rm. 201 Viosil's Arcade M.H. Del Pilar Street Molo, Iloilo City Tel. No. (033) 336 - 9179	June 21 - 23, 2002	June 21 - 23, 2002	June 14 - 30, 2002

For more details, please contact TOTAL CARE through Tel. Nos. 536 - 9686 / 522 - 6371
Visit our office at The Business Center, Manila Midtown Hotel, Pedro Gil Street, Ermita, Manila.
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- ✓ 20-40 years old
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*With good communication skills and pleasing personality
*With excellent marketing skills, smart and customer oriented
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*Computer literate

Interested Applicants may personally submit, fax or mail their comprehensive resume and TOR on or before June 22,2002 to:

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UNIT 701 VFP Bldg 2, Veterans Road
Veterans Center, Taguig, Metro Manila,1630
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- College graduate preferably major in Journalism, Mass Communication or English
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Mail your application letter, comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue
(formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets,
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(Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao)

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(Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao)

Successful candidates will be responsible in overseeing all operating functions within the branch of assignment. He/she will develop, manage and monitor branch service strategies.

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(Metro Manila)

Successful candidate will be responsible in account solicitation and marketing and contributing to the monthly target of the team.

Qualified candidates may personally apply from Monday to Friday or mail/ e-mail comprehensive resumé and 2x2 photo to:

Asia United Bank
Human Resources Management Division
22/F Rm. 2209 Antel Global Corporate Center
Doña Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

E-mail: humanresources@asiaunited.com.ph

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION

WANTED

TOLL TELLERS

Qualification Requirements:

- Male, 19 to 35 years old, 5'4" in height
- At least 2nd year college

This is an urgent requirement. Please apply personally and look for Ms. Grace Bredes. Please bring the following documents.

1. Birth Certificate
2. Police Clearance
3. SSS No. (E-1/E-4)
4. Residence Certificate
5. Transcript & Diploma
6. 2 pcs. I.D. size picture (2"x2") white background

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STORE MANAGER

Responsible for the over-all management of the store to achieve targeted goals and maintain efficiency and effectiveness of store operations. Male or female; not over 35 years old; Bachelor's degree holder, with at least 3 years managerial and/or 5 years supervisory experience in food service, manufacturing, retail business, hospitals, or other service-oriented establishments and willing to undergo hands-on-training.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

College graduates with at least 1-3 years supervisory experience in food service or service-oriented establishments. We also welcome fresh graduates with above-average scholastic records.

STORE MARKETING OFFICER

The SMART Officer is responsible for planning and implementation of store marketing projects and activities that will: a) increase store sales and b) make service to our customers more personalized. For the position, we need a college graduate, preferably in Mass Communication, Marketing, Management, or any related discipline. He/She should be creative and outgoing, and should possess good human relations and oral and written communication skills.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

(AA – Store Based)

The Administrative Assistant is responsible for the proper handling of the store's funds which include but not limited to the following: Master and Drawer Change Fund, Petty Cash Fund, Cash Sales, Check Disbursement, Computation of manhours and other. For the position, we need single, graduates of business courses preferably Accounting or Management; not over 25 years old; with at least 6 months work experience in the same field.

Applicants must be willing to work on shifting schedules. Successful candidates will undergo a comprehensive training program designed to develop technical and managerial competencies. Hired applicants can look forward to an above industry compensation package, a rewarding career and growth opportunities.

Qualified applicants are requested to apply personally and submit your comprehensive resume, recent ID photo and a photocopy of Transcript of Records on JUNE 17 - 21, 2002 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at:

Jollibee Foods Corporation - HR North Luzon
9th flr. Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

OTHER AREAS: TUGUEGARAO, ISABELA, BAGUIO, PANGASINAN NUEVA VIZCAYA, NUEVA ECIJA, PAMPANGA

(Application for other areas, please mail your resume to the above address)

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Systems Administrator

An international consulting firm needs a Systems Administrator for its Manila office with the following qualifications:

1. A graduate of a course in Information Technology, Computer Science, Computer Management, Computer Engineering, and other related computer courses
2. At least 3 or more years work experience in maintaining an effective functioning LAN/WAN and Lotus Notes server and the internet service provider connections
3. Can evaluate, install and introduce users to a wide range of applications software including the translation of technical information at user level through training, orientations, and tutorials
4. Can install, test, evaluate and troubleshoot operating environments on the network and individual workstations
5. Can maintain data backup and computer virus scanning procedures for the computer network and all stationary and portable computers connected to the network
6. Excellent skills in data base handling and web page development
7. Can prepare reports on problems, issues and recommendations for LAN/WAN operations, Lotus Notes, workstations, computer hardware and software and other computer related issues in telecommunications and networking
8. Ability to maintain the LAN/WAN and Lotus Notes server including shared files, printers, computer accessories, the different applications, and network peripherals
9. Excellent ability to troubleshoot major causes of systems failure and initiates changes or upgrade of Information Systems if necessary
10. Well organized, highly motivated and a good team player
11. Willing to work immediately
12. A resident of Metro Manila

Please send your application letter, resumé with 1x1 picture, and transcript of records not later than June 28, 2002 to:

The Administrative Officer
DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES, INC. (DAI)
c/o Ecogovernance Program
Visitor Center Bldg. Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Nature Center
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Fax No. 927-9869

Only shortlisted applicants will be interviewed. The Program management reserves the right to reject any applicant to this job advertisement.

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- ✓ Aggressive/Self-starter
- ✓ 25-35 years old
- ✓ Male or female
- ✓ Fluent in English and Tagalog
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Please submit your Resumé personally at Unit 1202, One San Miguel Avenue Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas, Pasig City. Tel. Nos. 910-2293 to 95

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ERLINDA C. CHAVEZ
#2 Real St., Real Vill.,
Tandang Sora, Q.C.
Criminal Case # 91093-97

SONIA S. LUDOVICO
Blk 32K Lot 13 Phase II
Dela Costa Homes 2 Kaloocan
Criminal Case # 109082.137

EMMA L. AGBULOS
10F I De Guzman St.,
Marulas, Valenzuela
Criminal Case #109155-70

NARCISA C. IBIS
Blk 17 Lot 18 Phase II
St. James Subd., Batal,
Santiago City
Criminal Case # 104601-43

REYNO / JUDITH REYES
Bo. Cabanban, Pagsanjan
Laguna
Criminal Case # 091098-91103

OFELIA B. CONCIL
Blk 11 Lot 6 Tierra Nova Subd.,
Bagumbong, Kaloocan
Criminal Case # 37-99-5596
Criminal Case # 0088585-603

This is to notify the public that the persons whose pictures appears above have pending warrant of arrest corresponding to criminal case filed by Achievers Lending Corp. against them. Any information regarding to their whereabouts please call us at Tel. No. 721-26-21 to 23.

(PDI--June 16, 2002)

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care™

CARE International, one of the world's best-known NGOs, works in 60 countries to provide development and relief assistance to the poor.

CARE Philippines, an international non-government organization is in need of a PROJECT DIRECTOR of its Mindanao emergency response project with the following requirements:

The Project seeks to enhance disaster management and emergency response in conflict-areas of Mindanao.

The Project Director is responsible for the overall operations, goal achievements, monitoring and reporting of the project.

Major Job Responsibilities:

- Establish a Mindanao-based emergency response network composed primarily of local groups to implement small-scale disaster preparedness and emergency relief activities.
- Create and manage a mechanism to provide small grants to network participants for implementation of disaster preparedness and relief activities.
- Establish and maintain a small stockpile of relief items in two locations.

Location: CARE Philippines Head Office Manila
Extensive travel to Mindanao is required
Availability: Immediate

Qualifications:

Masters degree in development related area, five or more years experience in emergency relief and rehabilitation work including assessment, response, procurement, logistics, etc. Five or more years of work experience in Mindanao.

Experience in training workshop design and facilitation will be very useful. Work experience in non-governmental organization is desirable.

The candidate should possess excellent written and oral English language skills. Fluency in a dialect of Mindanao is a plus. Persons native to Mindanao are particularly encouraged to apply.

CARE offers a stimulating work environment, and attractive remuneration and benefits. Please send your two-page resume on or before 24 June 2002 addressed to: David Neff, Country Director through email: carephil@care.org.ph or fax to: (02) 551-2631. CARE regrets it can reply only to short-listed applicants.

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Tel. No. (032) 232-7618

Dumaguete City
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Hi-Top News Magazine & General Merchandise
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Tel. Nos. (035) 225-5796/225-4364

Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
New Renie's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-4320/422-7452
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Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 337-3120/337-6018

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Tacloban City
Mr. Neil Montejo
Montejo's Newspaper Supply
246 Avenida Veteranos
Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053)325-6743/321-2954

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CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Aparri, Cagayan

INVITATION TO BID

A. CAGELCO II is inviting all interested parties to bid for the following described property :

Residential Lot most particularly described;
"Cadastral Lot No. 172, bounded on the north by Quirino St., South, lots 174-175-B, East – Enrile St. and West – General Luna St. with a total land area of 1,862 sq. meters"

B. Location - Enrile St., Aparri, province of Cagayan (CAGELCO II Warehouse)

C. Base Cost/Minimum Bid - P5,000.00/sq.m.

D. Application to bid must be submitted to the PBAC Chairman, Mrs. Blandina Y. Madamba at the address given above or may be faxed to Telefax No. **(078) 822-8900**

E. Deadline - **June 26, 2002**

F. Additional information may be furnished upon request or you may call telephone numbers **(078) 822-8506** or **(078) 888-2308.**

(sgd.) **GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS**
General Manager

(PDI - June 9 & 16, 2002)

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EXECUTIVE FURNITURE - Narra Table; Narra Side Table; Asstd. Wooden Executive Desks w/ Returns; Asstd. Executive Credenzas; Wooden Meeting Tables; Wooden Two-Door Cabinet; Leatherette Upholstered High/Low Back Executive Chairs; Fabric Upholstered Executive Chairs; Fabric Upholstered Arm Chairs, etc.
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GENERAL OFFICE FURNITURE - (150+ Positions) Asstd. Workstation Furniture w/ Overhead Cabinets & Power Points; (3) Executive Type Workstations; Two/Three/Four Drawer Steel Lateral Filing Cabinets; Four Drawer Steel Filing Cabinets; (150+) Three Drawer Steel Pedestals; Two Door Steel Cabinets; (10) Three Seater Training Room Desks; Clerical Desks; Steel Wall Mounted Cabinets; (200+) Fabric Upholstered Chairs w/ Armrests; Fabric Upholstered Secretarial Chairs, etc.
RECEPTION FURNITURE - Large Reception Desk; Fabric Upholstered Two Seater Sofa; (5) Fabric Upholstered Arm Chairs; (2) Glass Top End Tables;
MISCELLANEOUS - (5) KRONUS 420G Gate Access Swipe Machines; White Boards; Cork Notice Boards; Projection Screen; GERNI Industrial Vacuum Cleaner; Combination Safes; Fire Extinguishers, etc.

AT: 27/F IBM PLAZA, #8 EASTWOOD CITY, CYBERPARK, BAGUMBAYAN, QUEZON CITY
ON: SATURDAY 22ND JUNE 2002- 10:30AM PROMPT
ON VIEW: FRIDAY 21ST JUNE 2002, 9:00AM - 5:00PM & MORNING OF SALE DAY
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: Php20,000.00 (Upon Registration)

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U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DISPOSAL SALE

USAID/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used office and residential furniture/equipment, computer equipment, one (1) unit 1992 S-10 Chevrolet pick-up, automatic transmission and one (1) unit 1994 Jeep Cherokee, 4x2, automatic transmission on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis.

All items can be inspected on **June 17-19, 2002** from **8:00 a.m.** to **11:30 a.m.** and **1:00 p.m.** to **3:30 p.m.** at USAID Warehouse, 2345 Aurora Boulevard, (formerly Tramo Street), Pasay City. Bid forms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) can be done at the site during the sale. Full payment and bid deposit refunds will be on **June 20, 2002** at **8:00 a.m.** to **11:30 a.m.** and **1:00 p.m.** to **3:30 p.m.** at the USAID/Cashier, 8th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

For further information and lot descriptions, please call Mr. Romeo S. Arquisola and Mr. Alfredo Q. Daluz at Tel. Nos. 831-2271, 514-4229, 514-4234 and 514-4236.

(PDI--June 15 & 16, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

INVITATION TO BID

The Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) invites interested parties to a public bidding for the **VARIOUS COMPUTER PARTS/MODULES** on **July 12, 2002** at exactly 2:00 p.m. Board Room, HLURB Building, Kalayaan Avenue corner Mayaman Street, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bidders may secure the list of Pre-qualification documents and other bidding requirements at the PBAC Secretariat, ITG-MIS division, 2nd Floor, HLURB Building, Kalayaan Avenue corner Mayaman Street, Diliman, Quezon City and for inquiries you may call thru Telephone No. **927-2731** or Fax No. **927-2698**.

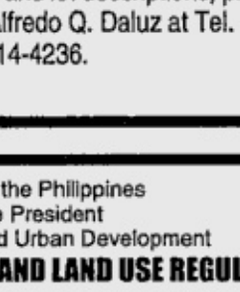
Submission of duly accomplished Pre-qualification documents shall be held on **July 2, 2002** at 2:00 p.m.

HLURB reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any required formalities in the bids and to accept such bids which are advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO L. DAGÑALAN**
Commissioner and
Chairman, Awards & Contracts Review Committee

(PDI - June 14, 15 & 16, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Notice is hereby given to the public that **MR. DANILO P. RODIS**, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with **EUROPEAN PRODUCTS INTERNATIONAL SUPPLY INC.** since February 6, 2002.

Any representation and/or transaction entered into by this person on or after this date is no longer authorized and shall not be honored by the company.

(PDI--June 16, 2002)

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that on November 29, 2001 at 3 o'clock in the afternoon a meeting of the stockholders of NEW ASIA'S COMPUTER WORLD VENTURES, INC. will be held at its principal office in G-6 Molave Lane, 2nd Floor Virramall Shopping Center, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila to consider the proposal dissolution of the corporation, and such other matter as may legally be brought to the attention of the stockholders.

PO CHOI KONG
Corporate Secretary

(PDI--June 2, 9 & 16, 2002)

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that on April 4, 2001 at 3 o'clock in the afternoon a meeting of the stockholders of CITY GARDEN SEAFOOD RESTAURANT will be held at its principal office in St. Francis Square, J. Vargas Ave., Mandaluyong City to consider the proposal dissolution of the corporation, and such other matter as may legally be brought to the attention of the stockholders.

(PDI--June 2, 9 & 16, 2002)

TARLAC I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

(TARELCO I)
AMACALAN, GERONA, TARLAC
"OWNED BY THE PEOPLE IT SERVES"

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Energy pursuant to Department Circular No. 95-11-009 under Energy Regulations No. 1-94 implementing Section 5(i) of Republic Act No. 7638, as amended and its attendant rules and procedures, has allocated from its Electrification Fund (EF) an amount to be made available to TARLAC I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (TARELCO I), for the electrification projects in the provinces of Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

Tarlac I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TARELCO I), Invites Sealed Bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following distribution lines.

BARANGAY	1-Ph (kms)	U.B. (kms)	O.S. (kms)
1. Maamot, San Jose, Tarlac	10.390	2.220	0.960
2. Labney, Mayantoc, Tarlac	9.945	1.650	1.320
3. Cabatuan, Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija	2.830	1.560	0.750
4. San Juan, Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija	3.270	0.570	0.815
5. Medico, Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija	1.530	0.640	0.400
6. Maeling, Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija	1.260	0.690	0.320
7. Alemania, Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija	3.725	0.225	0.375
8. Tony, Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija	1.105	0.235	0.275
9. Edy, Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija	1.830	0.460	0.110
TOTAL	35.885	8.250	5.325

Bidders are required to bid on a per barangay basis.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased, starting **June 24, 2002**, by eligible bidders upon submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P3,500.00). Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the office of the PBAC, TARELCO I, Amacalan, Gerona, Tarlac, Tel. No. (045) 931-0971 & 931-0975. Pre-bid Conference will be held on **July 10, 2002** at 10:00 A.M. at TARELCO I Boardroom also of the same address.

Sealed proposals in two (2) copies will be received by the PBAC at TARELCO I at exactly 10:00 A.M., **July 17, 2002**, at which time and place the said proposal will be opened and read in the presence of Bidders or Bidders' representative who choose to attend.

TARELCO I hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects therein, and accept the bid that is most advantageous to the Cooperative.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. RIC REY C. VERGARA**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI--June 16, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE
PROVINCIAL GENERAL SERVICES OFFICE
Provincial Capitol, Dipolog City
Tel. No. (065) 212-6492 Telefax No. (065) 212-3561

INVITATION TO BID

The provincial government of Zamboanga del Norte thru the Provincial General Services Office is inviting duly licensed suppliers to bid for the supply and delivery of the following equipment, viz:

1 unit	Truck Mounted Crane with Diesel Hammer (Surplus - Recon)
2 units	Back Hoe / Hydraulic Excavator (A-One Reconditioned) Crawler Type (Japan)
2 units	Cargo Stake Truck, 6-Wheeler with 3 Tons Boom Crane and Outrigger (Reconditioned) Japan
6 units	Service Vehicle preferably Military Jeep 4x4 (Surplus)

Schedule of Activities:	Date	Time
Issuance of Bid Documents	June 24 to 28	
Deadline for Submission of Bids	July 5, 2002	1:30 P.M.
Opening of Bids	July 5, 2002	1:30 P.M.

All activities shall be held at the Provincial General Services Office, Provincial Capitol, Dipolog City, unless announced otherwise.

Suppliers/Dealers who are interested to participate in this bidding may obtain the bid documents from the PGSO upon presentation of the Official Receipt for payment made to the Provincial Treasurer's Office of a non-refundable amount of Php 500.00.

All bids must be accompanied with a Bid Security in an amount equivalent to five percent 5% of the total bid proposal either in Cash/ Manager's Check/or Surety Bond issued by the GSIS, but shall not exceed Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 20,000.00).

The government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informalities found therein and accept the offer found to be most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ELIZABETH G. BARBASO**
Provincial General Services Officer

APPROVED:
(Sgd.) **ISAGANI S. AMATONG**
Provincial Governor

(PDI--June 16, 2002)

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.

G/F MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. (632) 927-36-27, 435-4231, 920-5521 loc. 3591

INVITATION TO BID

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is inviting all interested bidders to participate in the *E-bidding for the 1-year requirement of Brass Ball/Straight Valves.*

29,076 pcs.	**Brass Ball/Straight Valve with provision for locking, 20 mm inlet thread size x 20mm swivel nut outlet thread, DZR copper alloy in accordance with ISO 6509**

MWSI Stock Code: AJO450-G516
As per MWSI Technical Specifications/Terms and Conditions

Interested suppliers are required to submit the following as part of pre-qualification/evaluation to the MWSI-Purchasing Department on or before **July 5, 2002; 3:00 PM:**

1. At least three (3) samples (for testing)
2. Shop Drawing and brochures (please use MWSI Title Block)
3. Test Report of the following
   a) Materials Analysis (Physical and Chemical Test)
   b) HydroTest Report
4. Customers feedback on Product Performance

A pre-bid conference will be held on **July 01, 2002, 10:00 am.**, at Corporate Logistics Conference Room, Basement, Engineering Bldg., MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

The complete bid documents can be secured at the Purchasing Department, Basement, Eng'g. Bldg., Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Hundred Pesos Only (P500.00) in the form of cash or Manager's Check payable to Maynilad Water.

E-Bid schedule will be on **July 17, 2002 (Wednesday) 2:00 pm.**

MWSI finally reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any and all informalities therein, and accept the bid it deems most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ**
AVP-Corporate Logistics

(PDI--June 16, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Budget and Management
Malacañang, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY, SHORT LISTING AND TO BID FOR THE GOVERNMENT ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT SYSTEM (G-EPS) PROJECT

The Department of Budget and Management - Procurement Service ("DBM-PS") is conducting a public bidding of the Government Electronic Procurement System ("G-EPS") Project, to select a single Service Provider and technical partner for a period of FIVE (5) years to:

- provide an Internet-based G-EPS service to replace the existing Pilot EPS;
- roll out the required additional functionalities in manageable stages;
- supply related implementation and operational services; and
- provide technical planning and implementation services for other related applications

Interested parties may secure the Requirements for Eligible and Short Listing for the Public Bidding of the G-EPS Project from:

THE SECRETARIAT
Inter-Agency Bids and Awards Committee ("IABAC")
Department of Budget and Management-Procurement Service
PS Conference Room, 2nd Floor
Madrigal Compound, RR Road, Cristobal Street
Paco, Manila
Philippines

Telefax No: (632) 563-9350
Contact Person: Ms. Rita P. De Castro, Head, IABAC Secretariat
Website: www.procurementservice.org

The said requirements shall be available at the above address during regular office hours, as well as at the above-indicated website until **JUNE 24, 2002 (Monday), 5:00 p.m.**

All responces to the Eligibility and Short Listing requirements must be submitted on or before **JULY 8, 2002 (Monday), at 10:00 a.m.** to the CHAIRMAN of the IABAC, at the above-mentioned address. Only parties who pass the Eligibility Check and are Short Listed shall participate in the actual public bidding for the G-EPS Project. Short Listed Prospective Properties shall be notified accordingly, and they may purchase the Request for Proposals for the G-EPS Project upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (Php 25,000)

For Short Listed Prospective Proponents, the Pre-Bid Conference is on **AUGUST 5, 2002 (Monday), at 10:00 A.M.**, and the deadline for the submission and receipt of proposals shall be on **SEPTEMBER 16, 2002 (Monday), at 10:00 a.m.** both at the above-mentioned address.

The Approved Budget for the Project is Two Hundred Fifty Million Philippine Pesos (Php 250,000,000) which shall be sourced from the funds of DBM-PS.

DBM-PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the Eligibility and Short Listing requirements and to this invitation. DBM-PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO P. OPIDA**
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI--June 16 & 24, 2002)

United States Embassy
Manila, Philippines

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY TO BID

The International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB), an agency of the U.S. Government, plans to solicit proposals for construction of a new Radio Transmitting Station at Poro Point, La Union Province.

The following contracts will be solicited:

- Demolition of two concrete and steel aircraft hangers, several smaller buildings, concrete paving, and site utilities at the former Wallace Air Station. This contract is expected to be in the $250,000 to $500,000 range.
- Construction of a new 960 square meter concrete and masonry transmitter building, guardhouse, equipment pads, utilities, electric power feeder, security walls, fencing, site improvements, optional fuel storage and standby generator, and related items. This contract is expected to be in the $1,000,000 to $5,000,000 range.
- Construction of a new five tower antenna array for a 1.0 mega-watt medium wave radio transmitter, transmission line from Transmitter Building, and related facilities. This contract is expected to be in the $1,000,000 to $5,000,000 range.

All work will be to U.S. specifications as well as comply with local codes. All contracts will require performance and payment bonds. Only contractors who have experience with this type of work will be considered qualified to bid.

If you believe your company can meet these requirements, please submit a Letter of Interest and company profile. Include a list of similar projects completed and in progress. Submit to:

Ken Leonard, Construction Manager
U.S. Embassy, IBB/PTS
1201 Roxas Boulevard
Ermita 1000, Manila

Phone (45) 982-0254
Fax (45) 982-1402
E-mail: KLeonard@phi.ibb.gov

NOTE: This is not a solicitation for bids. Actual solicitations for bids are expected to be sent to qualified contractors within 30 to 90 days.

(PDI – June 11, 15, 19 & 23, 2002)

Send your resumés instantly.
JOB ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

On Father's Day We Thank You

For your caring and encouraging words
For your guidance and understanding
And the happiness you share.

You remind us that there is a very special person
Who will always be there for us.

You are the noble part of our best thoughts.
You are someone wonderful and wise.

You are a source of so much pride and center
Of such family love.

You are like a light that always shows the way.
And the voice we long to hear when we are not sure what to do.

You are the one we owe so much to
In prosperity and in our achievements.

And you are even much more than all of these.

Because we love you very much.

Happy Father's Day!

From: Sales Associates, Management and Staff of:

PROVIDENT PLANS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
Valero Plaza, 124 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 815-3866; 892-7081; Fax 893-6058

Website: www.providentplans.com; Email Address: president@providentplans.com

GREGORIO P. ALCANTARA, JR.
Chairman of the Board and President
Provident Plans International Corporation

Dear Papa Jay,

Though we don't spend much time together, you are always present in our hearts.

In this father's day, we would like to thank you for all that you've done for us. We know that we would not have been present in this world had it not been for you. We may not have been the perfect children nor have you been the perfect father but we are perfect for each other.

Happy Father's Day!

Love,
Mariel, Mikey, Mimi, Mikko, Myta & Myca Vergara

Dear Lolo Daddy,

Ever since we can remember, you have always been there to hold our hand when we were scared, to comport us when were sad, to give us a hug when we really needed one.

Now, we would like to show you how thankful we are for you. We may not have always been the best grandchildren but you will always be the best Lolo.

Happy Father's Day!

Love,
Mariel, Mikey, Mimi, Mikko, Myta & Myca Vergara

To: *Daddy Kiko*

Happy Father's Day We Love You!!

From: Mame, Frances, Beloy, Angelo, Anafe, Grace & Xyrus

Happy Father's Day Daddy!

Love,
Jogin, Annika, Alisa & Adria

Lolo ROMY,
You're the best lolo
Happy Father's Day!
from: POCHOLO & PANCHO

FOUND!!!
The JOECOOLEST Dad Ever
Thanks for loving us the way you do!
We Love You, Too, Joecool!

Happy Father's Day!
Love,
Mama, Gabe, Kym & Cinnamon

Happy Father's Day Papa Jerome!
We Love You very much...

From,
Mama Portia, Justice Phoebe & the Frando-Davz family

PRIME DAD NOT FOR SALE:
RENATO B. MAGADIA

Everyone in this section says their Dad is the greatest, but you and I know who's telling the truth don't we pop?

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

LOVE,
NO

To Amang Felicing Sta. Ana,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
MAY GOD GIVE YOU STRENGTH
AND GOOD HEALTH.

From: BETH ANDRES

To Papa Alvin,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
We Love You!

Nana & Nonin Diaz

To Papa Dante,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!!

We Love You...

Ohnie, Caye, Onchie

To: Mr. Alfredo Taniegra Sr.

Happy Father's Day!

From: Alfred

To: *Daddy Romy*

Happy Father's Day We Love You

From: *Mommy, Niño, Malen, Pio & Frances*

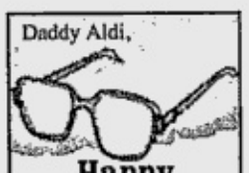
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
TATAY ESNAR GATDULA
Mula sa iyong mga mahal na anak at apo
Liza, Henry, Arnold Ashley & Lymo

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
UNCLE FELIX "FEX" BASILIO
Liza, Henry, Arnold Ashley & Lymo

WE ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU AS THE GREATEST
DADDY
IN THE WORLD AND WILL MISS YOU ON YOUR BIRTHDAY ON JUNE 20.

From: BOBOY, NANNIE, NONOY, NENE AND MOMMY

Daddy Aldi,



Happy Father's Day!
We love you,
Mommy Cholli & family

Daddy Boy,
Happy Father's Day!

Sonja & Mommy Marife

To Our Loving Daddy Con-Con,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
May God give you strength and good health.
"We Love You"

Johnsay, Jaira & Joanna Sta. Ana.

Dear DADDY,

For all the times you were there for us to give us advice, for all the times you lend a helping hand, for all the times you understood and gave patience, and for all the times you've given us love – Thank You...
WE LOVE YOU.
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
LOVE,
JASON, MONET, RUTH & JOY

Papa Roland,

Happy Father's Day!
Issa & Marizel

Happy Father's Day Papa we love you so much!

Ena, Tristan, Edman, Emil

Happy Father's Day Tatay Willie! We love you!

Nanay Angie and ***Given***

Happy Father's Day Papa Darwin! We love you.

Always,
Mama, DJ & Lance

Happy Father's Day Tata! We love you! God bless!

— SJ, Paulette and *JJay*

Papa Boy Cerdenia,

We love you

Happy Father's Day!

From:
Marsha, Vincent, Mayang & Lloyd

To MATT GALIDO,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY DAD!
How lucky we are to have you! We love you Dad.

From,
RODNEY, ALAINE, MATLEY, EMMALYN, VICTOR, INRICO, BLESSY, JOB CHRISTOPHER & MADONNA

To: **John Oliver T. Manalastas**

Thank you very much Dad!

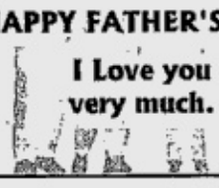
We love you,
Gwen & Diego

DADDY BING,

I'm very proud to have you as my Dad.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

I Love you very much.



SHARON

Dearest Papa Al,

Happy Father's Day!

We love you so much.

Love always,
Ian, Ivy, Iris, Ivory

To Tito Rey Cruz,

I thank you for always being there for me. In my heart you will stay and will always be my second father.
May God continue to shower you all the blessings you deserved to have.
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

From, WENG DIAZ

Papa Jun Fernandez,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
We Love You...

Erika, Neil, Den², Vince & Danielle

To: **Atty. Lorenzo M. Manalastas**

Happy Father's Day Pa!

We love you,
John, Gwen & Diego

To: **Papa Alex Gonzy,**

Thank you for your unending love & support.

We will always be here for you.

We love you,
Don, Chey, Dek, Andoy & Toti

To our Papi,
Atty. Reynaldo G. Elizalde,

Happy Father's Day & Advanced Happy 52nd Birthday!

We love you,
Dennis, Mike, Cristy, Aileen, & Ronald

Happy Father's Day to you Papa Art!

We love you,
Arlene, Atoie & Mama Liway

To Lolo Resty Fulgar,

We thank God for having a wonderful grampa to all of us!!!

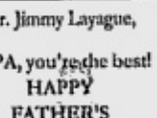
Happy Father's Day!

From your loving wife, children, grandchildren & great grandchildren

---

To Mr. Jimmy Layague,

PAPA, you're the best!
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
WE LOVE YOU!!!



Your Children,
GINA, IRENE, AMOR & BANG

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY PAPWAH

Thank you for everything we are. So blessed to have you. We LOVE you more than we know.

Love,
Mamwah and Gabby

Papa Manny,

Today, and always we want you to know how much ***WE LOVE YOU!***

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
Eman & Mae Mae

Papa Monet,

We want to let you know you're special

Happy Father's Day!

From:
Uday, Kim & Aye Cerdenia

Happy Father's Day
Bon Voyage
Mr. Nemesio E. Dacanay,

we love you!!!
Aileen and **Paolo**

Itay Ben,

Happy Father's Day!

From:
Lanz, Lyn & Ding

Happy Father's Day!
Papa Ambreng Garcia Sr.
We love you...
Jhun, Aileen and ***Paolo***

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
to
Renato Cano, Eric and Francis Dator and Sherwin Lopez
From:
David Matthew C. Dator

Papa Didi,

We miss you, We love you.

Happy Father's Day!

From:
An-an and Mae-mae Cerdenia

To JUN LOPEREZ

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! DADDY!!!

LOVE,
MARY ROSE & MIRIAM LOPEREZ

Atay,

Happy Father's Day!

From:

Anay, Maryjane, Philip & Bryan

DEAR TATAY TEMYONG
Happy Father's Day!
We love you very much!
Nanay Gloria, Nonoy, Dhel & Anton

To: **Roseller B. Molina**

Happy Pappy Day!

We love you,
Babes, John & Diego

Happy Father's Day Daddy Ric. God Bless and We Love You.

Mommy & Day

Papa Sid Fonacier,

Happy Father's Day!

From:
Yvan, Daphne & Egg

To Daddy Jong,

Happy Father's Day Daddy!

We Love You Very Much!

Love,
Mommy Chu, Cobey, Cedie & Corinne

Dear Daddy,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

We're lucky to have you. We love you and we wish you happiness best of health.

From Mahar, Mara, Kano and MOMMY

Happy Father's Day!
TATAY BOY ACADEMIA JR., we love you!
Nanay Flor, Aileen & Paolo

To *Tatay Nick,*

Happy Father's Day!

Love,
Jhun & ***Lenie***

Dear Daddy Nonoy,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

We really care and love you very much...

Mommy & Anton

Daddy Taw,

This is to let you know how much we love you.

Happy Father's Day!

From:
Neal and Maita Cerdenia

Forever we will be grateful for your love and support! We love u! Happy Fathers Day Nestor!

Love,
Che, Riza & Jay

Dearest AMBO, soon you'll be a father & you will feel how wonderful it is, as of the moment let me thank you for being a father to Paolo, Thank you for the love & care you've given us.

Happy Father's Day Babe!

Ayayaten Ka

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

DELIGHT DAD ON DADDY'S DAY

To: Mr. Rudy Iglesia

Happy Father's Day to the best dad in the world! I love you!

Fr: Jin Iglesia

Words are not enough to express what I find inside, but this is true: there's nothing better than having a father like you!

Love,
golem and *beaujet*

Our dearest Daddy Alfredo Castillo,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you, for all the things that you've done to us and for making us better persons... you're the best dad ever in this world!

Happy Father's Day!!!

We LOVE YOU VERY MUCH!

Helena, Haidee & Noel

To the Father

who compel us to play chinese chess with him and accompany him to go swimming in Southwoods,

who finishes last in golf tournaments and does not seem to care,

who does mornings jogs in the living room thinking it would matter,

who established his business from scratch so that he can provide for whatever his family wants,

It was truly a blessing to have you as our dad!

Love,
Don Arn Den

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
PAPA LOUIE!!!
Thank you for taking good care of us & the unconditional love you've given us.
WE LOVE YOU.

STEPHEN LOUIS, SEAN LAWRENCE and SEBASTIAN LORENZO PAHLILIO

To: Dr. Acosta, Dr. Adiao, Dr. Chan, Dr. Cruz, Dr. Galang, Dr. Gestopa, Dr. Jeremillo, Dr. Raquino, and Dr. Santos of Gruppho Medico

Happy Father's Day to All Of You!!

From: Girlie of Cygnet Pharmaceuticals

Papa,

Happy Father's Day!!!

I hope we can make the wrong this right this second time around. Let's hope we can change for the best.

God Bless! We love you!

Mama, My, and Mavin

To Our Loving Daddy Lito,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
God bless you always and give you good health...
"We Love You"

Danielle & Denise Gueverra

To: Our Dearest Tatay Mr. Antonio Z. Gangcuangco

Happy Father's Day!

Thanks for Everything!

From: All of Us

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
LOLO PEDRO!

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
PAPANG LEO

Love,
Annika, Alisa & Adria

To Our Loving Papa Emil,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
God bless you always and give you good health...
"We Love You"

Drexler & Kevin

Happy Dad's Day, DADDY!

Love,
Joy, Emae and Ejay

ON DADDY'S DAY
JUNE 16

Surprise Dad by having his favorite outfits cleaned!!!
On this special day ALL **Laundry & Dry-Cleaning** Services will be priced

50% OFF

Simply Present this Ad at Any 32 Branches, Complete a LaundREWARD Survey & You automatically Avail of the DISCOUNT!

METROPOLE Laundry & Dry-cleaners
Since 1993
722-0040

To DADDY ARNEL,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS AND GIVE GOOD HEALTH... "WE LOVE YOU!"

LOVE,
DOLLY, ADRIAN & ANGEL

To Papa Steve,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

We Miss You but we know you are happy in heaven with Jesus. Greet Papa Jesus Happy Father's Day, too!

Vanessa and Wina B. Hidalgo

Dear Papa Sonny,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
God bless you and give you good health...
"I Love You."

Samantha Faith Cruz

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY LOLO SONNY!

LOVE,
MIGOY

TITO BUTCH,

This goes to show how much we appreciate having you around. You're a great dad!
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
We Love You,

Henry, Harold, Hazel & Hersh

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
PAPA
and
HAPPY 1st BIRTHDAY TO ME!

LOVE,
ZHEVRIEL SANTOS

To Daddy Sonny,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY.
We Love you.

Mommy Jeng, Bach, Cheenie & Cheska

JOHANN VALES MONTESINES

Dear Daddy,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!!
We are lucky to have a cool Dad like you.

Love,
Mommy, PJ & Jenny

Tatay Jim Montesines

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
We love you so much.

Nanay Naty, Joseph, Jess, Jun, Jon, Neneng, Mimay, Lala, in-laws and grandchildren

DEAR PAPA,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!!
WE LOVE YOU.

From,
Mom & Budang

DEAR PAPA,

We love you and we wish you happiness and the best of health.
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY.

From,
Mama, Yanyan and Basti

To Papa Amel,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
WE LOVE YOU.

Mama Bags, Japh & Lawrence

To my Papa Antolin Diaz,

I thank God for sending you to me to be my father, and I thank you for adding joy into my life and for being the most understanding father in the world.
I Love You!
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

LOVE,
WENG DIAZ

To Daddy Boyet,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
"WE LOVE YOU!"

Mommy Beng, Yna & Yona

TO: KUYA MANNY ZARAGOSA,
wishing you a
Happy Father's Day!
Thank you for everything.
Love,
Aileen, Dhel, Iris & Pat

To Papa Jojie,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

From,
Mama Odge, Ma-jo & Janella

To DADDY ARNEL,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS AND GIVE GOOD HEALTH... "WE LOVE YOU!"

LOVE,
DOLLY, ADRIAN & ANGEL

To SPO4 Vic Sumbeling, Dodong Concepcion, Jongramz, Joepan, Yong-C, Manuel Enriquez, Eng'r. Paray,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY to ALL of You!

From,
Karl-Shiela-Ryan & Family

To TATAY PING,

You're the world's greatest DAD. We Love You So Much!

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

From,
Nanay Ming, Rhonnie, Rhandy and Sherry

To Daddy George,

Happy Father's Day!

God Bless You Always!

With Love,
Mommy Fairy, Tiny & Tommy

To Our Dearest Papa,

On this very Special Day, we remember ALL the love you've given us and ALL the sacrifices you've done for us. We just want to say thank you and We LOVE YOU so much!!!
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!!

LOVE,
ALLAN, LEN, ARNEL

To Papa Nono,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Love,
Bongga, Coycoy, Ryan, Camille, Mae² & Bernace!

To DADDY RHONNIE,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! Thank You Very Much! We Love You!

From,
Mommy Merlyn, Jaydee, Jenny and Joey

To Tatay Mading & Tatay Alfredo,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

We Love You,
Jhun & Beng

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
TATAY MICHAEL

With all our love,
NANAY REENA, ZACHARY & NAOMI POMPA

To Kuya Dave, Kuya Erning, Kuya Marvin, Kuya Tony, Sammy, Pastor Raymundo,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL! GOD BLESS...

From:
Beth & Viangie

To Daddy Erning,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS AND GIVE GOOD HEALTH... "WE LOVE YOU!"

LOVE,
NENE, SHALU & JHONMARK

To Papa Marvin,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! MAY GOD GIVE YOU STRENGTH AND GOOD HEALTH... "WE LOVE YOU!"

DENIELLE & DENISE
SHARON & LITO

To Ka Meniong, Ka Danny, Ka Benny, Ka Raffy, Cesar, Boyet, Ferdie, Efren, Lauren & Shalon,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL! GOD BLESS...

From:
BETH ANDRES

To Daddy Lauren,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY. GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS AND GIVE YOU GOOD HEALTH...

Love,
Alia Cruz

To Papa Tony,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS AND GIVE GOOD HEALTH... "WE LOVE YOU!"

LOVE, METENG, ANN, CHELO, ARNEL & DOLLY

TATAY TOOTS,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!!
Thanks for everything.
We love you so much
From,
Paring, Marivic, Cecille, Edwin, Gilbert, Rachelle, Armie, Ethel, Macy, Joni, Micah, Zyril, Joshua, Angelica & Jarel

PAPA NOEL,

THANKS FOR BEING THE BEST!

LOVE,
DOMINIC JIMENEZ

TATAY ESTAN,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY. WE LOVE YOU SO MUCH

From,
LUCY, ETHEL, LLOYD, GILBERT, JOSHUA & ANGELICA

TITO SONNY,

Thank you for the kind deeds and sweet gestures!
I really appreciate everything!
I LOVE YOU.

TEI-TEI

TA,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY. We Love you.

Love,
MA, INGTON & GRACE

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
DADDY RITCHE

We love you!
MOMMY BETH, ANGEL & NICA VILLALOBOS

To Daddy Sonny,

Happy Father's Day Daddy!

Dad We Will Always Love You!

Love,
Mommy Myla, Samuel and Samantha

TATAY EDU,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!!
WE LOVE YOU SO MUCH

From,
Armie, Mac-mac, Jon-jon & Micah

To Eddie J. Taleon,

Happy Father's Day!

You're D Best!

Love, Ria, Mico

To Daddy Bong,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

From,
Mommy Edna, Madelaine, Marjorie & Marielle Aquino

Lolo Teofisto,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!!

Ingat Po Lagi!

From,
Baby Tommy

To The Best Father,

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Papa Vic Diaz

We Love You,
Liza, Alvin & Angie

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In Loving Memory

On the 2nd Death Anniversary of our Beloved Father

TAM SUN

(PAM AH POO)

August 1, 1929 - June 16, 2000

(Founder of Anros & Sons Enterprises, Inc.
Tanjay City, Negros Oriental)

We, his family, together with his dearest wife **Angela**; children and children-in-law **Nilo & Pressy, Marilyn & Marcelo Fua, Teresita & Jaime See, Rowena** (†), **Wilmer & Priscilla, Joel & Imelda, Henry & Angel**, and **Teresa & Samuel Yap** and all his grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to remember him in their prayers.

Holy Masses will be offered in his honor on June 16, 2002 at the following churches:

St. James The Greater Parish *Tanjay City, Negros Oriental*	5:00 AM; 10:00 AM; 6:30 PM
San Andres The Apostle Parish *Amlan, Negros Oriental*	6:00 AM
San Antonio de Padua Parish *Sibulan, Negros Oriental*	6:30 AM
St. Catherine de Alexandria Parish *Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental*	5:00 AM
Immaculate Concepcion Parish *Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental*	6:30 PM
Senior San Jose Parish *San Jose, Negros Oriental*	8:00 AM
St. Nicolas de Tolentino Parish *Bais City, Negros Oriental*	8:00 AM
St. Francis de Assisi Parish *Manjuyod, Negros Oriental*	7:00 AM
Mary The Queen Parish *West Greenhills, San Juan*	8:00 AM
Sts. Peter & Paul Parish *P. Burgos Street, Makati City*	8:00 AM
St. John Bosco (Don Bosco) Parish *Pasay Road, Makati City*	5:45 PM
Christ The King Parish *Greenmeadows, Quezon City*	11:00 AM

"Our father is gone, but his presence and guidance have never left us and we will continue to cherish him for as long as we live. God has our dearly beloved father in HIS keeping, and we have him in our hearts forever."

*"Only One Life, It will soon be Past;
Only what is done for Christ will last."*

In Loving Memory

of the **First Death Anniversary** of

MRS. LIWAYWAY VELEÑA GARIN

of Atimonan and Lucban, Quezon

June 17, 2002

A HOLY MASS will be offered on Sunday and Monday, June 16 and 17, 2002 at:

1.	**Our Lady of the Angeles Parish Church**, *Atimonan, Quezon*	(June 16, 2002 at 2:00 PM)
2.	**St. Louis Parish Church**, *Lucban, Quezon*	(June 17, 2002 at 6:00 AM)
3.	**St. Anne Parish Church**, *Malicboy, Pagbilao, Quezon*	(June 17, 2002 at 6:00 AM)
4.	**St. Catherine Alexandria Church**, *Pagbilao, Quezon*	(June 17, 2002 at 6:00 AM)
5.	**St. Michael Archangel Church**, *Tayabas, Quezon*	(June 17, 2002 at 6:00 AM)
6.	**Our Lady of Lourdes**, *Malinao Ilaya, Atimonan, Quezon*	(June 17, 2002 at 6:00 AM)
7.	**Our Lady of the Holy Rosary**, *Plaridel, Quezon*	(June 17, 2002 at 6:00 AM)

Her loving husband **Judge Felicisimo S. Garin**; children **Emman & Dodjie**; daughter-in-law **Beng**; brothers **Samson, Wilberto** and **Arthur**; sister **Mercy**, all surnamed **Veleña**, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, other relatives and friends, request the pious readers especially those whose lives she had touched, to pray for her eternal rest.

IRENEO "Rene" P. GUERZON

Died in the grace of our Lord on June 8, 2002 at the age of 84.

His wife, **CORING**, children **Orlando & Evelyn, Oscar & Melinda, Danny, Linda & Albert, Liza & Nabil, Ellen & Fred, Erna & Cesar, Steve & Rem**, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal rest.

His remains lie in state at their residence at 187 Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City (Tel. No. 913-9039).

Interment will be on Tuesday, June 18, 2002 at 9AM at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

DRA. JESUSA P. MABUGAT

Retiree of United Laboratories, Inc.

Died in the Grace of our Lord on June 14, 2002 at the age of 61.

Her body lies in state at the Multipurpose Hall, 3rd St., Riverside Village, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City.

Cremation will be on Tuesday, June 18, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. Loyola, Marikina.

LEBANON VERGARA SUGAY

Died peacefully with the Lord God by his side on June 12, 2002 at the age of 69.

His remains can be visited at the St. Gabriel Chapel of Sun Valley Subd., Parañaque City. Mass is scheduled on Sunday, June 16, 2002 at 8:00 a.m. Cremation will follow at the Manila Memorial Park Crematorium, Parañaque from 10:00 a.m. up to 2:00 in the afternoon.

Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him.

I Corinthians 2:9

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Sa primer anibersaryo kan pagkagadan
kan samuyang minamahal na ama na si

JOVENTINO (Uben) ALEGRE

(Joined our Lord on June 16, 2001 at age of 64)

nag papaabot kami nin pag papa Diosmabalos sa mga nakidumamay sa samuyang pamilya sa mga oras nin pagka mundo. Diosmabalos pong marhay sa mga nag dulot kan saindang pangadye-on asin kansyon: Couples for Christ, Milaor chapter; Exodus Male Choir, Milaor; PERAA Officers & Staff, mga paryentes asin amigos y amigas. An pag papasalamat hale sa mga nawalat: Mama PER, Doods-Alona Alegre-Laplana asin mga aki NiNa, Benjo; Antolin-Alma Alegre-Mendoza asin mga aki, Katkat, Intal, Kome, Jackie; Nonoy – Amy Alegre asin mga aki Lance, Alex; Eddie – Nene Alegre Reyes asin mga aki Damdam, Kim.

In Loving Memory of

PURA BALLESTEROS CASTELO

Peacefully joined her Creator and her husband, the late Secretary of National Defense OSCAR CASTELO on June 14, 2002 at the age of 93.

Her loving children **Hermilo & Mirriam, Ramona & Ben, Valentin & Vicky, Oscar & Florence**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, great great grandchild, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Mt. Carmel Church, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

Col. HERMENEGILDO S. MELGAR, Jr. (Ret.)

of Passi, Ilo-ilo
March 24, 1927 - June 12, 2002

His beloved grandsons **Carlo, Kurt, Jeram** and **Alden**; children **Arlene, Arnel, Arlette, Aileen, Adonis Bruce, Hazel, Helga, Herbert, Jeanette** and **Emy**; sons-in-law **Roger** and **Dennis**; sister **Preslanda**; wife **Tita**; relatives and friends greet him **A VERY HAPPY FATHER'S DAY.**

His remains will be cremated at 1:00 PM today, June 16, 2002 at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park.

JOSE P. FABUNAN, JR.

Joined his Creator on June 12, 2002 at the age of 52.

His loving wife **Susanne**; children **Jojo, Grace, Dennis Glenn, Sara (Chi)**; son-in-law **Benjie** & grandson **Joshua**; brothers & sisters, in-laws, relatives & friends request the readers to pray for strength and comfort during this trying times.

His remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, Sucat Road, Parañaque City. Interment will be on June 16, 2002, 10:00 a.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque.

For I will dwell in the House of the Lord, forever.

Brigadier General Rodolfo G. Hautea, AFP (Ret)

Tanza, E.B. Magalona, Negros Occidental
Philippine Air Force Flying School Class 53-C
Former PAF Vice Commander

2002 Huwarang Ama Awardee

We may have been rich when we were young or we may have been poor. All we know was that we felt rich. For there was always love and there were always surprises. You would come home to regale us with stories that filled our imagination even when our table left us half-full. To play shadows when the lights were out. To lift our spirits when our cards were down. You taught us to build a fire from scratch, to care for a garden patch. To savor our harvest, to work hard, play hard and rest. On our large table for eight - we laughed at the littlest joke and shared even the last morsel of our meal. You always loomed large in our lives. You were our General, yet you did not flinch to bend down to pat a small back, or to plant a kiss on a bruised knee. We anticipated each return from a safe flight and looked forward to the treat of a "ride-car" around the base. You taught us to respect ourselves and others, including our menagerie of dogs, chickens and pigs. You encouraged us to dream, because, you said, in dreams we fly. We may have flown far and wide or we may have hovered nearby. All we know is that we will always fly because we are so loved.

Thank you Daddy.

Our beloved Dad joined his Creator on Friday, June14, 2002.

His remains lie in state at the mortuary of the Holy Eucharist Parish, Moonwalk Phase I, Paranaque City.

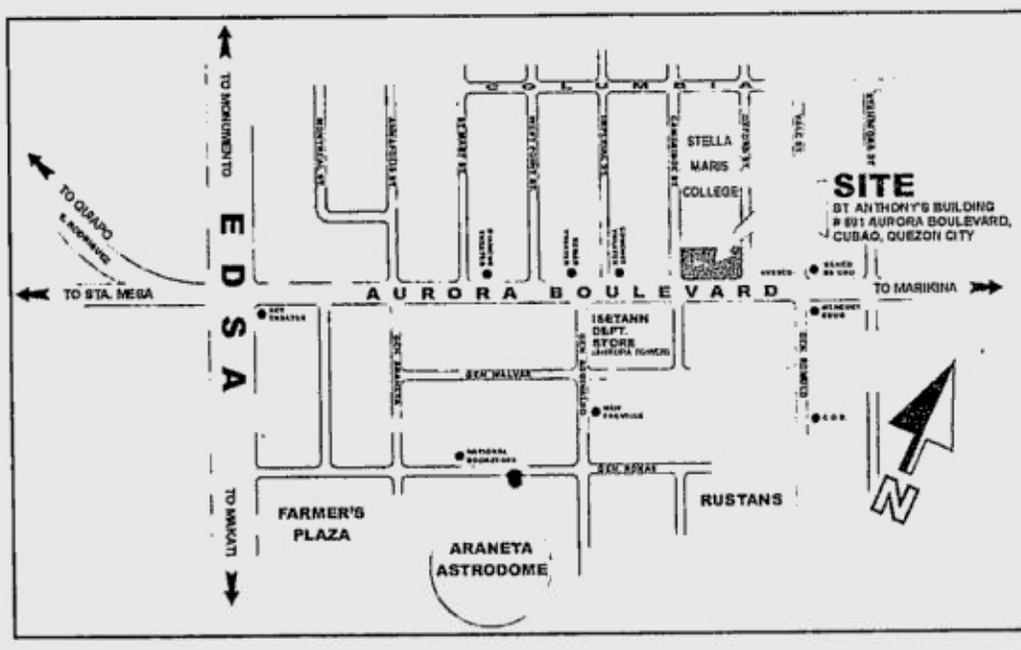
Necrological services will be held on Friday, June 21, following the 7:00 P.M. Mass.

Interment shall be at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani on Saturday, June 22, after the 9:00 A.M. Mass at the Holy Eucharist Parish.

Please join us in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

Agnes & Skeet Nano
Jue & Anavic Hautea
Dot & Larry Francisco
Olive & Audi Pajarillo
Marion & Teresa Hautea
Becca & Virgil de la Vega

Grandchildren Angel, Joseph, Jappie, Ina, Lia, Laurence, Celine, Danielle, Pia, Andrea, Rachelle, Matthew, Robbie and Apple



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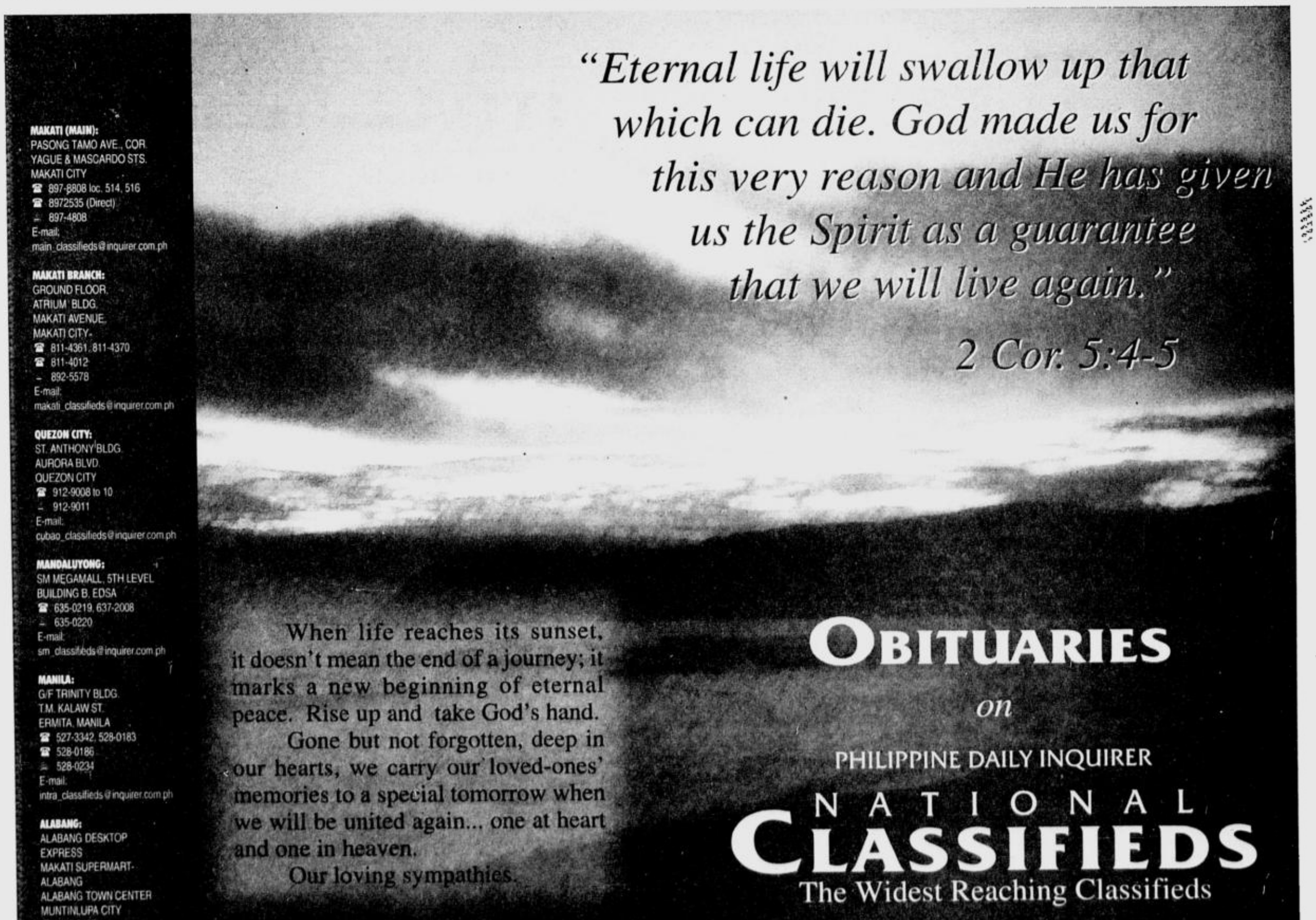

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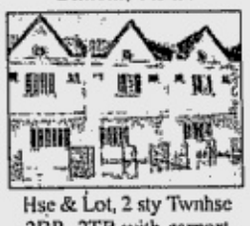

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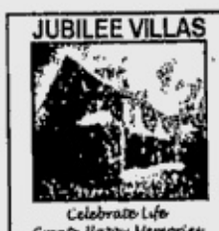

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is thus given that the estate of spouses FRANCISCO and ANA C. LIMPOCO has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc. No. 88, Page No. 18, Book No. VIII, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Z. Penaflorde Zuniga of Pasig City Philippines.
(PDI-June 16, 23 & 30, 2002)

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS
May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.
Thank you very much.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH
Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.
This prayer was found in the fifteenth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle. Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)
O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.
Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x).
Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL REGION
MACABEBE, PAMPANGA

AUGUSTO O. JAYME,
Mortgagee.
- versus -
ANTONIO DE MESA for himself and as atty-in-fact of REBECCA S. CRUZ, ALICIA S. CRUZ and LILIA S. CRUZ DE MESA,
Mortgagors.

EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE
CASE NO. 02-0025-(M)

- NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE -

Upon petition of extra-judicial foreclosure of real estate mortgaged under Act 3135 as amended, filed by AUGUSTO O. JAYME, with postal address at No. 65 Gen. Luna St., Heroes Hill, Quezon City, against ANTONIO DE MESA for himself and as attorney-in-fact of Rebecca S. Cruz, Alicia S. Cruz and Lilia S. Cruz-de Mesa of No. 39 Twin Hills, New Manila, Quezon City, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of May 15, 2002 amounted to ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY SEVEN (P1,431,347.00) PESOS, exclusive of interest and penalty, attorney's fees and incidental expenses of the foreclosure, all secured by the said mortgaged the undersigned or her duly authorized deputy sheriff will sell at public auction on July 5, 2002 at 10 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter at the main entrance of the Hall of Justice of Macabebe, Pampanga to the highest bidder for cash and in Philippine Currency, the herein property/ies, with all its improvements, to wit:

- TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 429989-R -

1 "A parcel of land (Lot No. 2706 of the cad. survey of Apalit, with the improvement thereon, situated in the Mun. of Apalit, Bounded on the E., by a Rd. on the S., by Lot Nos. 2780 and 2765, Beg. at a pt. marked "1" on plan, x x x containing an area of ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND TWENTY SQUARE METERS (1 420) more or less. x x x

2. (Lot No. 2705) Beg. at a pt. marked "1" on plan, being N. 59. deg. 07W., 504.50 m. from BLLM No. 7, thence S. 74 deg. 53W., 6.94 m. to pt. 2 thence N. 53 deg. 28W., 14.27 m. to pt. 3 thence N. 15 deg. 23W. 18.03 m. to pt. 4, thence N. 78 deg. 26E., 6.73 m. to pt. 5 thence S. 28 deg. 45E., 30.44 m. to pt. of beg. containing an area of THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN SQ. METERS (315) more or less. x x x

Prospective buyers and lookers may investigate for themselves the above-described properties. Transfer Certificate of Title No. 429989-R and encumbrances thereon, if there be any.

Macabebe, Pampanga, June 7, 2002.

(Sgd.) ATTY. LEILA MAE H. MACAPINLAC
OIC - Clerk of Court

(Sgd.) PABLITO C. CLEMENTE, JR.
Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:
Atty. Francisco A. Carandang Jr
653 M. dela Fuente St., Sampaloc, Manila
Antonio de Mesa
39 Twin Hills New Manila, Quezon City

(PDI--June 9, 16 & 23, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that one (1) booklet of TMPI Official Receipt with Serial Nos. 151 to 200 was lost on June 7, 2002. **Terumo Marketing Phils., Inc. (TMPI)** will not honor any Official Receipt issued with Serial Nos. starting from 193 to 200 after the aforementioned date.

TMPI Management

(PDI--June 16, 2002)

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E.D.torial

This week's columnist:

Lou Querubin, MD
Associate Clinical Professor,
University of the Philippines
College of Medicine
Visiting Consultant, Department of Psychiatry,
The Medical City

SEX AND THE MIND
(Part 1)

In the previous mEDex E.D.torials, we discussed common diseases implicated with Erectile Dysfunction (ED), such as diabetes and cardiovascular ailments. In this week's article, we will discuss psychological factors implicated as possible causes of ED. These include depression, anxiety, lack of sexual education and deterioration in the overall quality of the person's intimate relationship.

people need to value intimacy within their relationship if they want their sexual desire to remain strong.

What impact does sexual dysfunction have on a person's quality of life and interpersonal relationships?

Several studies have suggested that lack of intimacy is an important contributing factor to sexual dysfunction. It has led sex therapists to conclude that people need to value intimacy within their relationship if they want their sexual desire to remain strong.

Sexual dysfunction has traditionally been defined as a disturbance in the sexual response cycle or as the experience of pain during sexual intercourse. There are 4 phases in the sexual response cycle :

1. Desire
2. Excitement
3. Orgasm and
4. Resolution.

The disorders affecting the ***desire phase*** involve a lack of desire for sexual activity including sexual fantasy. One's dislike of sex is also found to be closely related to phobia.

The ***excitement phase*** includes Erectile Dysfunction (ED) or impotence in the male and the inability to achieve sexual arousal in the female.

The ***orgasmic phase*** disorders refer to inhibited orgasm in both gender and premature ejaculation among males.

In the 70's, sexual dysfunction was regarded as a result of psychological factors. With the growing knowledge about the physical causes of sexual dysfunction, we now know that men who suffer from ED, suffer from both psychological and physical causes.

How do psychiatric problems affect sex and expressions of sexuality?

Psychological problems can be both a result of and a cause of ED. For example, a person suffering from ED may experience depression because he is unable to maintain a satisfying sexual relationship with his wife. On the other hand, patients with depression may experience a general decrease in libido as part of the symptoms of illness. Like depression, anxiety and other unexplained fears can also cause inhibited sexual desire. A person with an anxiety disorder is generally unable to relax, feels tense or irritable and often has his thoughts and feelings focused elsewhere. This state of the mind alone can interfere with the experience of sexual pleasure and inhibit orgasm.

Medicines that treat psychological disorders may also contribute to sexual dysfunction or ED.

Several studies have shown that there exists an association between intimacy, quality-of-life and sexual dysfunction among men and women. One study (McCabe 1997) showed that all aspects of intimacy were lower among sexually dysfunctional men. Results were not as discriminating among the female respondents. Another one, (Snyder and Berg 1983) found that for both men and women, sexual dysfunction was associated with the partner's lack of response to sexual requests, infrequent intercourse and lack of concern for the partner.

Donnelly (J. Sexual Research, 1993) found that respondents who were in marriages with low sexual activity reported lower levels of marital happiness and fewer shared activities.
The lack of sexual activity seems to imply the lower levels of "connectedness" between couples. Marital satisfaction also reduced the level of stress as well as the level of sexual dysfunction in men. Men with higher levels of intimacy may cope better with stress and so experience lower levels of sexual dysfunction. and Gilliland, 1993)

Marital satisfaction also reduced the level of stress as well as the level of sexual dysfunction in men. Men with higher levels of intimacy may cope better with stress and so experience lower levels of sexual dysfunction.

Ask your Doctor

If your relationship with your spouse is suffering because of poor sexual health, it is best for you to consult with your doctor. Your doctor will be able to help you determine treatment options best for you and/or your spouse. You may be asked to go through psycho-therapy if the source of the problem are unresolved conflicts between you and your spouse, rehabilitation if substance abuse is present, and medical intervention if the cause of the problem is a physical illness such as depression, diabetes or hypertension.

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU...

Text us a tip on how couples can get in the mood for sex at **0917-8PFIZER** (0917-8734937) or **0918-9PFIZER** (0918-9734937). Lucky texters will get a chance to win a Pfizer gift pack. Unique and interesting tips will be featured in the next column.

To answer, text PFI (space), ED (space), your tip (space), your age (space). You may also opt to type your name.

Example: **PFI ED Find the right venue 40 Paul Reyes**

Should you have questions about E.D. or comments regarding this column, please write to: Pfizer mEDex (**mEDex@Pfizer.com**)
Pfizer, Inc. 23/F Ayala Life-FGU Center 6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines

PHOTOS BY SONNY MALLARI

THE BAKERY at the corner of Quezon Avenue and the main provincial highway.

Turtle-shaped bread sold in a store called 'Apple'

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SARIAYA, Quezon—For natives of this historic town at the slope of the mystical Mt. Banahaw, and also for the tired and hungry motorists, the letter "P" brings to mind *pinagong*—a kind of bread which resembles a turtle carapace and has long been known here as staple *merienda* fare.

With an ice-cold soda, a steaming cup of brewed coffee or even just plain water to wash it down after a hearty bite, *pinagong* could simply turn an empty stomach into a full and satisfied one.

"Because what you get, or rather bite, is one kind of bread that does not have any yeast in it. There's no trapped air that would make the bread look big yet hollow inside. It's pure flour, sugar and skim milk and lard, no special ingredients," Henry Tan, the proprietor of Apple Bakery, the maker of the best-tasting *pinagong* here, explained to the INQUIRER.

Eaten hot

"*Pinagong* should be eaten while it is still hot to enjoy its distinct taste, which makes it different from other bread products," he added.

The bakery, which carries a "bitten-apple" logo—similar to the trademark used by the former recording firm of the Beatles—is strategically located at the corner of Quezon Avenue and the main provincial highway at the left side of the road if one is Bicol-bound. It is a favorite stop of travelers because of the *pinagong*. The top is crunchy but soft inside.

Jonathan Albiol, 31, one of Apple's seven bakers, attributes the quality of the bread to the "in-house techniques" in making the product. "There is no secret ingredient involved but only our own style of preparing the bread and the right strokes in mashing the dough. Nothing more."

Already 15 years in the baking profession, Albiol started as a plain helper at the age of 14. After three years, he learned bread making from a master baker.

Business history

A native of Sariaya, Tan, a confessed *sabungero* and fighting cock breeder, handles the ins and outs of the bakery business after he inherited the store from his father in 1986.

A business administration graduate, Tan recalled how his father joined the copra trade during the boom period.

But when the coconut industry started to slide down during the mid-'70s, the elder Tan ventured into the bakery business with a friend.

Due to a business misunderstanding, however, the partners broke up and eventually ended up as rivals in the local bread business up to the present.

"One of my brothers adopted the name Apple from the name of his basketball team, which was a consistent winner here during that time," Tan said.

"After my graduation, I found myself hating routine office work. Boredom easily seeped into my psyche," he said.

He remembered that he never lasted more than six months in one firm. His former employers include United Coconut Planters Bank in Escolta branch, Bandolino in Concepcion, Marikina, Goodyear in Pasong Tamo, Makati and Aboitiz to name a few.

"My salary was not even enough to cover my food and clothing expenses," he recalled.

He also stayed in the factory of his uncle for at least 11 months before boredom struck him again.

"That was the last straw. I decided to come home and start a business of my own," narrated Tan, who is married to a Zamboagueña. They have two kids.

Baker's den

On the opposite side are stacks of chopped firewood from *kamat-*

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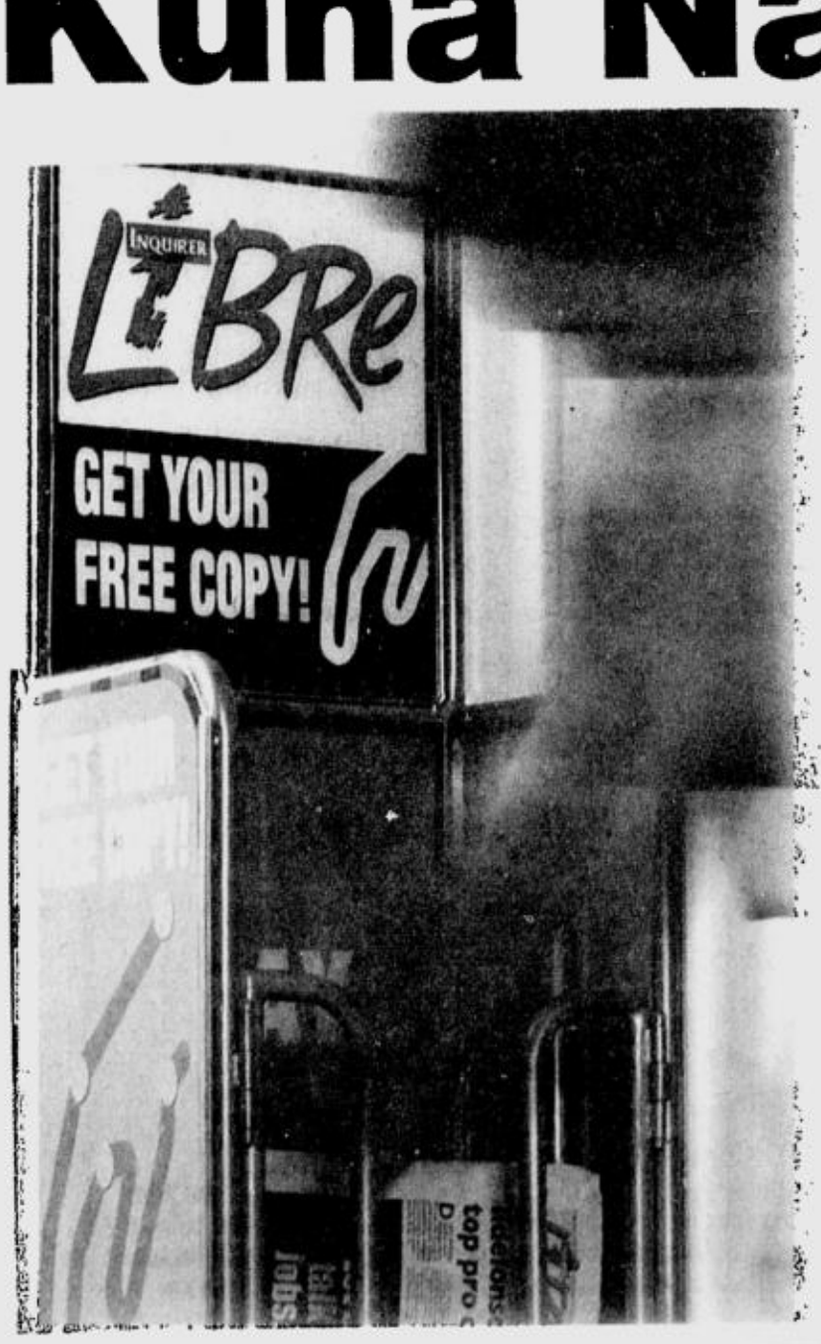

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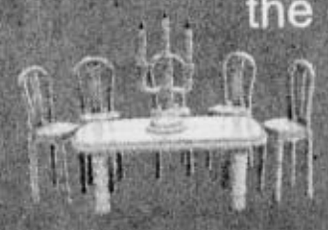

A dining room that can seat as much as six.

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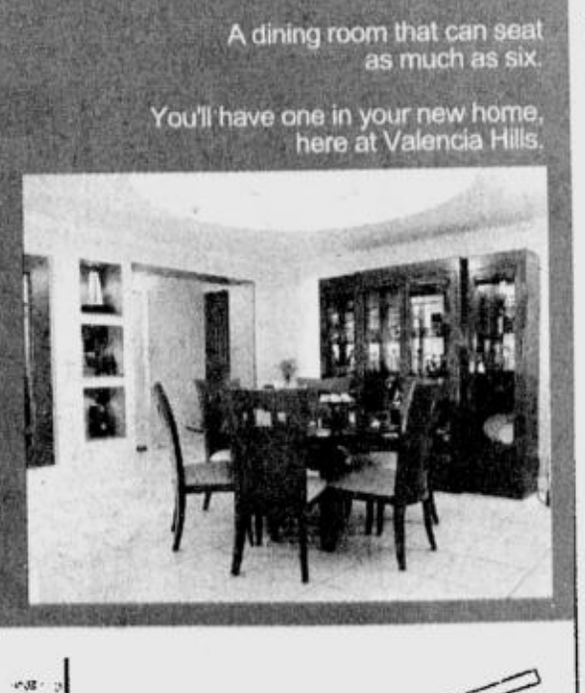

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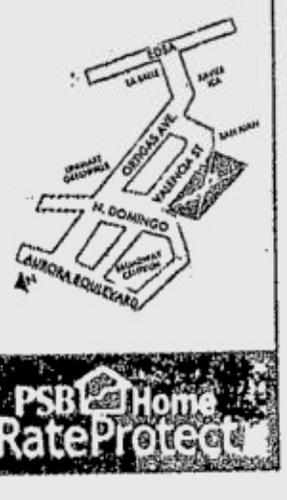

Financing available through MetroHome Rate Protect and PSB Home RateProtect

'Bagong Buwan' showcased in Asian American filmfest

WE'VE gotten word from our contact in New York that the 25th Asian American International Film Festival starting on July 19 will feature on its opening night the North American premiere of **Marilou Diaz-Abaya**'s "New Moon" (Bagong Buwan). The filmfest blurb describes the film as "a provocative Philippine Muslim drama."

More than 25 Asian films will be screened during the event (until July 27), including **Sung-Su**'s Korean martial arts epic "Musa the Warrior" starring **Zhang Ziyi, Johnnie To**'s action thriller "Fulltime Killer" starring **Andy Lau**, and **Song Hae-seong**'s "Takashi Sorimachi."

Other hihglights include a first-time directors program, and a classics program co-selected by **Martin Scorsese**. The films will be screened at New York's Asia Society and museum.

The movies they're making

What films are our favorite stars topbilling this year? **Robin Williams**' latest starrer is "One Hour Photo," where he plays a lonely photo technician who becomes obsessed with a family whose photographs he develops.

In "The Bangers Sisters," **Goldie Hawn** and **Susan Sarandon** play two women who live in different worlds—one is living in the past, and the other is hiding from it. The "comedic collision" of two women's worlds also stars the much-admired and versatile **Geoffrey Rush**.

Colin Farrel stars in "Phone Booth," a film that has a unique "hook": Farrel plays a media consultant who's trapped in a New York City phone booth after being told by a serial killer with a sniper rifle that he'll be shot if he hangs up!

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

The film also topbills **Forest Whitaker, Katie Holmes** and **Kiefer Sutherland**, and is directed by **Joel Schumacher**.

For his part, **Pierce Brosnan** comes on in his James Bond mode with "Die Another Day," the 20th installment in the world's most successful film franchise. He is joined by **Halle Berry, Judi Dench** and **John Cleese**.

George Clooney's big movie for 2002 is "Solaris." The film directed by **James Cameron** is described as an "erotic psychological thriller" that's also a sci-fi adventure.

Clooney's character is sent to rescue the crew of a distant space station. Once on the breathtaking journey, he gets embroiled in a mind-bending mystery, where past and present collide, threatening everything he believes in.

Billy's books

Veteran show biz journalist **Billy Balbastro** will launch two books on June 19 at Bulwagang Katipunan, Manila City Hall. The books are compilations of Billy's columns.

The books, "Take Billy" and "Sundays" feature personalities like **Pope John Paul II, Fernando Poe, Jr., Ogie Alcasid, Nora Aunor, Richard Gomez, Jaclyn Jose, Monique Wilson**, and **Lorna Tolentino**.

Billy's books are edited by **Eduardo F. Marfori**, with layout and design by **Irene C. Cruz**. Artwork for "Sundays" is by **Dave** and **Carlo Cecilio**.

Effective singing course for children

Last summer, **Ryan Cayabyab**, the Music Studio, offered a singing course for children that turned out to be very effective. So, the course is being offered again, this time on a regular basis. It is called Ensemble Singing for Children, and is open to kids aged 8 to 13.

The children are taught a good and proper singing technique that is perfect for their young voices. They learn to sing together beautifully, as well as basic musicianship and positive values. They become good team players who are confident yet sensitive and caring individuals.

The course is being handled by **Emmy Cayabyab**, who holds a Bachelor of Music degree major in choral conducting, with specialization in children's choir. Emmy is currently taking her master's degree in choral conducting, minor in music education, at the UP College of Music.

Auditions for the course will be held on June 29 and July 6 at the Studio at Sunvar Plaza in Makati. Call 844-3330.

Music and Movement classes for children 3-7 years old are also being offered, together with the studio's one-on-one voice and piano courses.

Beezer's Bite opening

Three popular bands, Pido with Take One, M.O.G. and True Faith, will perform at the opening of the new restaurant, bar and music venue, Beezer's Bite, on June 18.

The new venue is located at Jupiter Place, Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village, Makati City. It wants to be known not only for live musical entertainment, but also for its cuisine and service.

Joey Ayala, Ifugaos sing, dance for the rice terraces

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

TRADITIONAL Ifugao music as well as contemporary melodies and lyrics from songwriter Joey Ayala entertained the crowd that watched the Gotad Rice Wine Festival fund-raising concert last Thursday at the '70s Bistro in Quezon City.

For the first time, ethnic music proponent Ayala teamed up with the Ubbun Di Ipugaw Foundation to help raise awareness of the deterioration of the famous Ifugao Rice Terraces, which have been called the 8th wonder of the world.

They chose to celebrate the rice wine festival as the wine is one of the most enduring symbols of the Ifugaos. It has even been said that the rice wine was the reason why the terraces were built in the first place.

The result of the collaboration was a three-hour show highlighted by the spirited performance of Ayala who belted his signature tunes "Panganay na Umaga," "Magkabilaan," "Karaniwang Tao," "Agila," "Maglakad," and his most commercially successful tune, "Walang Hanggang Paalam."

Serving as a counterpoint to Ayala's songs was the dance troupe that performed excerpts from the traditional *baya*, or rice wine making dance rituals, to the sound of gongs and Ifugao instruments.

The crowd cheered the dancers and some even participated in the dance, after sampling the *baya* brought in fresh from Ifugao.

Ayala, the audience and the Ifugaos who traveled about 10 hours to Manila got into the spirit of the show. Even Ifugao Gov. Teodoro B. Baguilat Jr. was persuaded to perform two songs, to the delight of his constituents.

Ayala gave in to requests to do covers of other artists such as Cat Stevens and James Taylor. He also sang a soulful version of Juan de la Cruz's "Ang Himig Natin."

Ayala, who has always been involved in environment issues even before he became a commercial artist, said he believes that preserving the rice terraces means preserving the Ifugao way of life.

Tonight, those who are interested in helping preserve the terraces can watch the last day of the two-day concert series, also at the '70s Bistro.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

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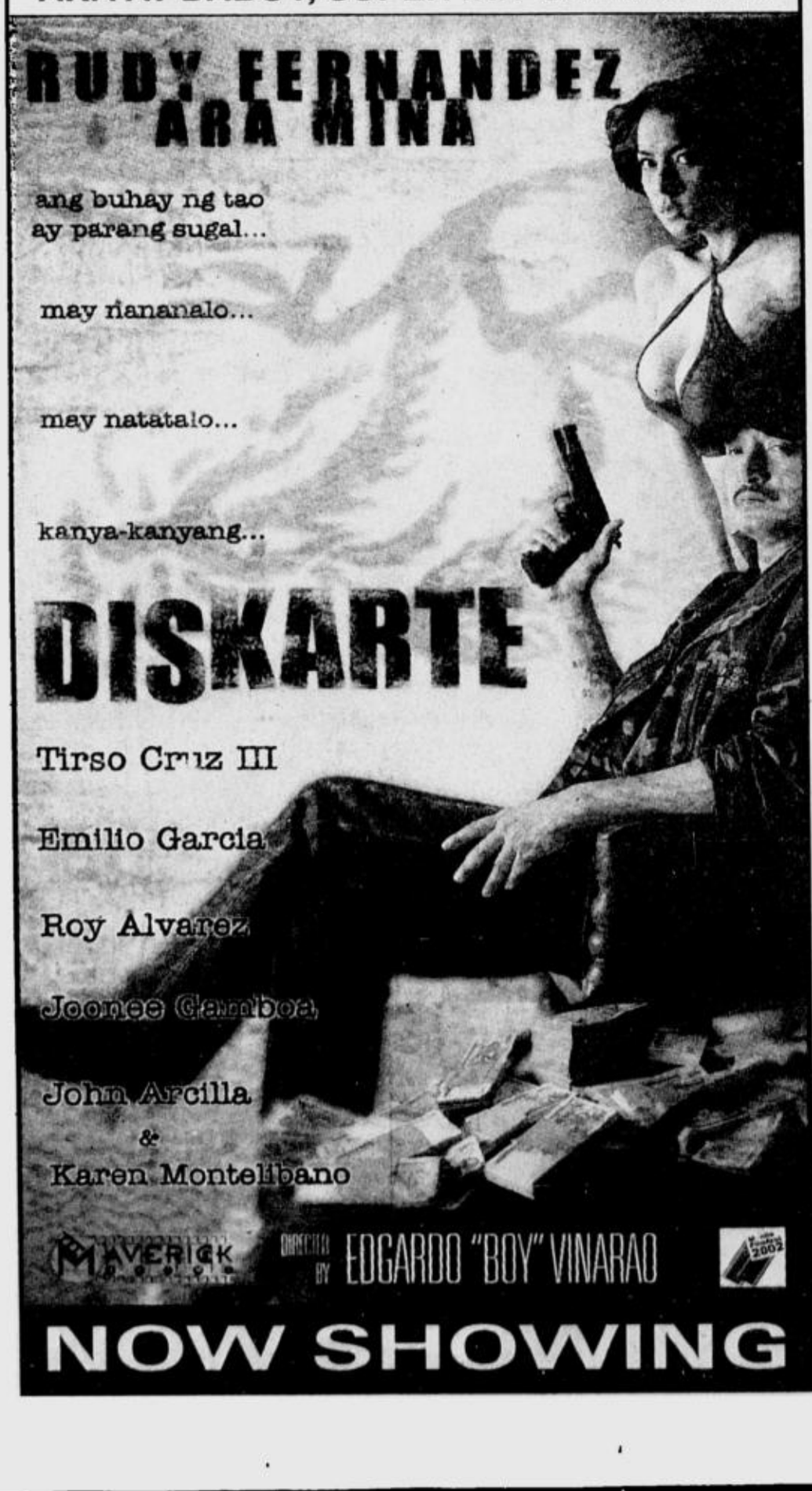

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2. HARVARD CALTEX - GUADALUPE EDSA COR. HARVARD, MKT.
3. PETROLEUM ALLEY CALTEX - JP RIZAL GUADALUPE VIEJO, MKT. (PASIG RIVER)
4. LORPED CALTEX - JP RIZAL CORNER CALASANA STREET, MKT.
5. CARPORT CALTEX - PASONG TAMO (NEAR MAKATI CINEMA SQAURE)

JUNE 15, SATURDAY

1. ALABANG GAS - ALABANG-ZAPOTE ROAD
2. SOUTHGATE CALTEX - PRESIDENT AVENUE, BF HOMES, PQUE.
3. ZYNERGY CALTEX - SUCAT AVENUE, PQUE. (IN FRONT OF LOYOLA GARDENS)
4. SUCAT SUPERSTAR CALTEX - SUCAT AVENUE, PQUE.
5. STAR CALTEX - SUCAT AVENUE COR. IRENEVILLE SUBD.

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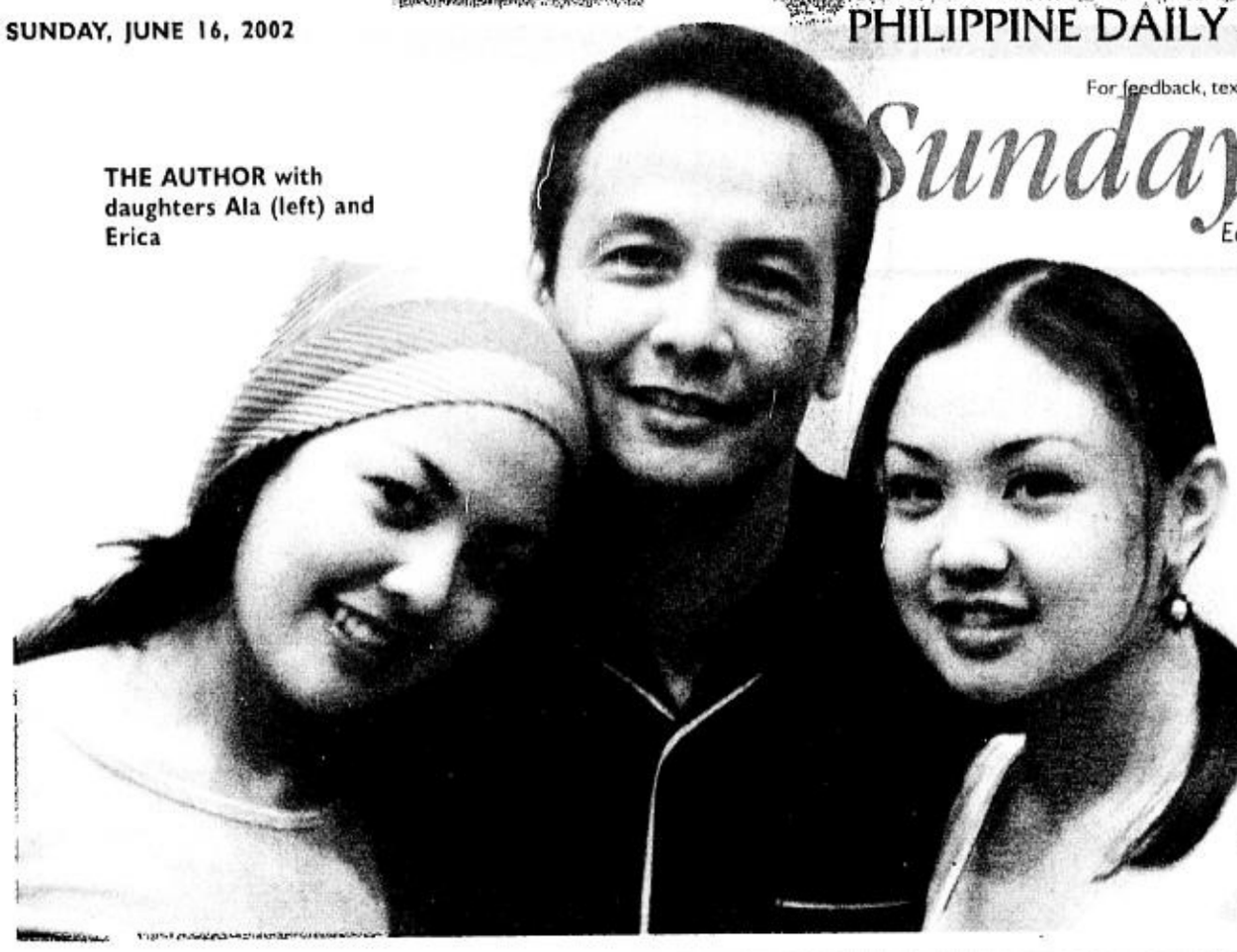
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso



THE AUTHOR with daughters Ala (left) and Erica

My evolution into *fatherhood*

By Jim Paredes
Contributor

AMONG A FATHER'S fantasies is one where he congratulates himself for having brought up his children well, especially his daughters. I can't say I did it without any help. In fact, I have to admit it has been a two-way street. My daughters, Erica and Ala, have raised me, just as I have raised them.

I had few preconceived notions about the difference between raising boys and raising girls, thanks to my mother who hardly discriminated between her sons and daughters. Since my father died early, Mom parented her 10 children single-handedly—with meager material resources but a lot of common sense.

Mom was mother and father to us. She was also the home mechanic, handywoman, driver, disciplinarian—a real "macho mom," one might say, who could fix anything, from a loose screw to a flat tire to a misbehaving child.

> My daughters have truly been my greatest teachers. They exact a high price for lessons learned

She did not instill, much less reinforce, sexual stereotypes among her children. In her no-nonsense way, she made sure we were clothed and fed, and we didn't dare fuss about sartorial styles or be picky about cuisine. Our stomachs were full and we were clothed decently and that, we learned, was all we needed to survive, along with Mom's soul nourishment: the importance of prayer, simplicity, honesty, courage and character.

My mother's approach to raising her 10 kids has a lot to do with how I have raised my own children.

I had no issue with having two daughters in a row. In fact, I welcomed having daughters. To me, they were children who just happened to be girls. Like all children, they simply needed to be loved, clothed, fed, listened to, read to at night, educated, hugged, teased and spoiled occasionally. I biked and played ball with them, ran with them in the park and encouraged their longing to be Peter Pan, as I did with my son Mio, who came five years after Ala was born.

This is not to say that I treated my two little daughters in exactly the same way. That was impossible to do. Erica was always spirited and loud, and she had terrific negotiating abilities. Ala was quieter, more introspective. She liked drawing and displayed the intensity of an artist, catching the nuances of emotions around her, especially when she listened to music.

Their contrasting characters demanded individual approaches, which I acknowledged early on. But the incidental detail about their being girls hardly made an impression on me—not until they reached their teens.

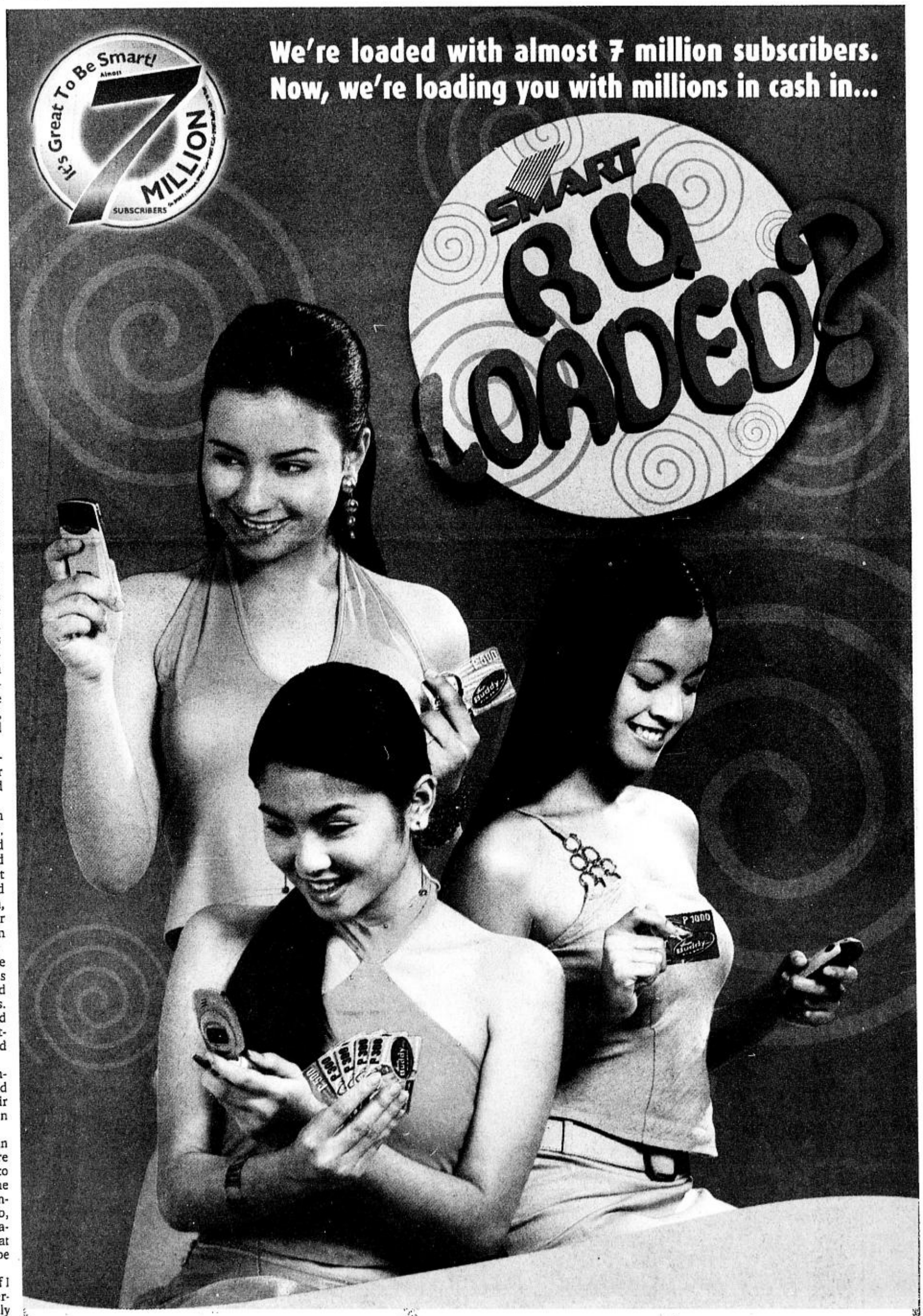
When they acquired teen status, they began to look, talk, dress and act differently. Before my very eyes, I saw my daughters bloom into young women. Even if I purposely made time to bond with them and, hopefully, be an influence in their lives I realized that I, too, needed to change. And like many other fathers in the history of mankind, I sensed that this stage of bringing up daughters would be more difficult than the last.

I sensed that I had to acquire new skills if I was to succeed in the next stage of fatherhood. I learned that, to be able to candidly discuss matters they were now interested in, such as sex, drugs, dating, relationships, as well as those that didn't interest them as much, such as discipline, school and spirituality, I would need certain life skills.

Erica's rebellious nature taught me the immense power of attentiveness, patience and delaying judgment, while Ala's intensity and seriousness, her conscientious approach to duty, and her warped sense of humor pushed me to be introspective and to lighten up when I need to.

Lessons about teens, especially daughters, are never learned passively—for both teens and parents. On the one hand is the entitlement to freedom and license that, kids dis-

MY EVOLUTION / p.C4



Our Lady of Pentecost Parish holds fund-raising concert

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

WHEN Fr. Steve Zabala was given a parish in Loyola Heights, Quezon City, he did not have a church or a convent. He had to rent a room in the neighborhood and started mobilizing people to put up fund-raising schemes for a house and lot that would serve as a temporary church and convent. While doing that, he held Masses and liturgical services at a nearby basketball court.

That was three years ago when he invited the "Himig Heswita" group to sing in a concert in November 1999 at the Ateneo Rizal Center. It was to raise money to buy a 468-sq. m. house and lot. Then, there was the painting exhibit of Remy Ignacio in October 2000, which fetched P400,000. It was held at the Cardinal Sin Center at Loyola House.

To build a bigger church

Named after Our Lady of Pentecost as suggested by Father Arevalo, SJ, the parish now intends to buy a 981-sq. m. lot on Celodonio S[illegible]dor Street, where it would build a bigger church and convent. To kick off the fund-raising campaign, a concert featuring The Spirit of '67 band will be held on July 20 at Loyola Gym.

If you've heard the band sing at Dish in Rockwell, you would want to hear them again, especially to help in building a church. For tickets, you can call 929-0665 or drop by 12 F. de la Rosa cor. C. Salvador St. Q.C.

Pastoral council helps

Giving Father Steve full support are the members of the Pastoral Council, who are now busy selling tickets. They are Jojo and Ditsy Sumpaico, chair couple; Jonathan Co, vice chair; Inez Dimalanta, secretary; Sylvia Veloso, treasurer; Bert Laforteza, auditor; and Ging Roque, parish administrator.

Ministries: Social Action, Maurice Ligot; Information, Tessa Mangahas; Worship, Reynaldo Perez; Christian Formation, Rose Ara 'a Fuentes; Finance, Benny Valdez; Youth, Aimi Jalandoni; Fund-raising project, Amaya Bengzon, Spirit of '67 concert; Lita de Leon, Metro Sagrado Para kay Kristo.

Stipends for Masses

Resurrection of Our Lady Parish on 39 Dasa St. in Barangay Paltok, SFDM in Quezon City, is encouraging families to offer 20 Masses a year for their personal intentions to help the parish in holding Masses on weekdays. This also includes the celebration of Sunday Masses.

Fr. Cesar Macariola, parish priest, is appealing to parishioners and even those outside the parish to offer Masses. For more information, please call 374-2390.

Sacred Heart fiesta

All churches celebrated the feast of the Sacred Heart on June 7, which is the first Friday after Pentecost Sunday.

LEONOR Kilayko with Foreign Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin and wife Corazon Yulo of Negros

The National Council of the Apostleship of Prayer held its celebration at Our Lady of Remedies Parish in Malate. The National Council, headed by Susan Precilla Reyes as president, chose the theme "The Sacred Heart: Center of Life and Love in the Family."

She says, "Through Novena Masses, we endeavor to show our love for the Sacred Heart and seek out ways to radiate from our own hearts the same love for others that He has shown us. A love we first experience and understand in the family."

Statue of St. Joseph needed

Fr. Edmund Beronio, parish priest of St. Joseph the Worker in Belance, Dupax del Norte in Nueva Vizcaya, wrote to say that the parish needs a 4-ft image of St. Joseph.

The parish covers 13 barangays and 17 chapels. The parishioners belong to the different indigenous tribes of Benguet who moved down to the mountains of Nueva Vizcaya. After 15 years, the parish has grown not only in number, but also in the faith of the people.

Those who wish to help can beep me at Easy Call 141-020543.

Our Lady of Manaoag in Mactan

To coincide with the first day of novena Masses for Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage, patroness of Mactan, Air Base Commander Benito Ebuen set the enthronement of Our Lady of Manaoag on May 17.

Present were Bishop Antonio Ranola, auxiliary bishop of Cebu; Fr. Pious Alejo, air base chaplain; and Fr. Manuel Salarda, parish priest of St. James the Apostle Church in Caibiran, Biliran, Leyte. A procession preceded the enthronement.

Another enthronement was held on June 8 in Butigis Island in Bantayan, Cebu. The parish priest is Fr. Ceferino Eleccion. He was assisted by Fr. Thomas Thekumthottan.

Prayer chapel for San Antonio

The Sanctuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park recently held a fund-raising concert featuring Vienna-based soprano Camille Lopez and the Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of Maestro Ruggero Barbieri. "For the love of San Antonio" concert raised funds for the building of a prayer chapel.

Playing in Bacolod for free

International concert pianist Leonor Kilayko has been playing for free for some fund-raising church projects in Bacolod. In Manila recently, Leonor was invited to play at the residence of German Ambassador Herbert Jess and his wife Micheline. This was the first time a concert pianist was invited. Leonor played works of Handel, Beethoven, Schumann and Mendelsshon on a Grotrian-Steinweg piano.

She also performed at the debut of Antonia Martel at the Makati Shangri-La ballroom, accompanied by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

KaiVigan to protect Vigan

KaiVigan, a non-profit NGO founded in 1994, recently held a tour of Vigan and towns of Ilocos Sur to visit the centuries old churches of the Virgin Mary. The NGO intends to protect Vigan and its heritage, and to help in promoting tourism-oriented opportunities. Proceeds of the recent trip will go to its projected training center for traditional industries.

Those who wish to join in a future tour can call Nena Bartulo at 912-5618 or 912-7004.

Padre Pio on PTV-4

The life of Padre Pio will be shown by Family Rosary Crusade on PTV-4 today at 7:30 a.m.

There must be thousands of Filipinos in Rome now who are attending the canonization in St. Peter's Square.

St. Anthony de Padua fellowship

Metro Manila-based Masbateños are holding a fellowship Mass dinner at the Quezon City Sports Club on June 22 at 6 p.m. Fr. Joseph de los Santos will say the Mass.

The fellowship intends to raise funds for the restoration of St. Anthony de Padua Cathedral in Masbate. For tickets, please call Lydia Monfort at 525-2464 or (0917)833-6141, or Dr. Lalaine Rapadas at (0917)394-9875.

Goodbye Tita Teresa, Eric and Manny

When friends leave us one after the other, they leave emptiness in our hearts. First to go was Eric Catipon, with whom I spoke to two weeks before he died. Then, Tita Teresa Olbes, mother of Freddy and Ters, passed away on a Saturday, May 25.

Afterwards, Manny Pichel lost his battle with cancer of the lungs. Their deaths have made us realize that we have to take care of ourselves as well, especially our health.

At Tita Teresa's funeral Mass, friends and relatives came. Ramon San Agustin promised to sing at her funeral and he sang "Ave Maria" by Santiago, with Tony Cortez at the organ. In his inimitable tenor, Ramon surprised us. Then, the tears fell for someone we will surely miss.

FR. Steve Zabala, parish priest of Our Lady of Pentecost Parish

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Letter to a fellow lesbian

DEAR Tita Dulce,

You give intelligent, practical and very human advice. I appreciate your counsel to Blue Love. I would like to get in touch with her. Here is my letter. Can you please mail it to her? I am enclosing a stamped envelope. Thank you and more power.

Blueberry

I do not have her complete address, so I decided to include your letter here so she can read it. If Blue Love wants to answer you (I'm sure she will), she can send me her answer. I will mail it to you. Also, just relax. There are many in this world with the same genes as yours.

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

Dear Blue Love,

Like you, I hate to be called a lesbian; like you I've fallen in love with a girl. Will there ever be happiness for us? I believe none, in our lifetime.

How are you now? Still losing the will to live? Then share it with me, and be glad that there are two of us. I feel consoled to know there is another soul somewhere feeling the same way I do, that I'm not alone in this predicament.

Tita Dulce has given you a very good advice and I wish I had read it earlier to counsel myself and be less miserable than I am now. Yes, damned if we do, or damned if we don't.

Your letter gives the impression of an articulate, gentle and disciplined personality. I would like to know you. No need to see each other; just write or text. I just want to be diverted. It numbs the heart loving someone who can't or won't return the compliment.

Let's console each other. I hope to be your friend through writing. Have courage and take care.

Blueberry

On Aspartame

I WAS in a Jollibee branch waiting for my friends to join me for lunch. Being overweight, I just ordered first a Diet Coke, while reading the INQUIRER. A couple at the next table stood up to leave, but the wife stopped and told me, "*Hijo, bawal iyan*. Stop drinking that." I asked why, and what I heard her say was, "Apartment is bad for the body." Again I asked why, but her husband motioned to her, and she answered they were in a hurry. After looking down at the newspaper, she said, "Ask her." She pointed to your column, which was on the page in front of me. Maybe she is your friend.

Why should I stop drinking Diet Coke?

BEN

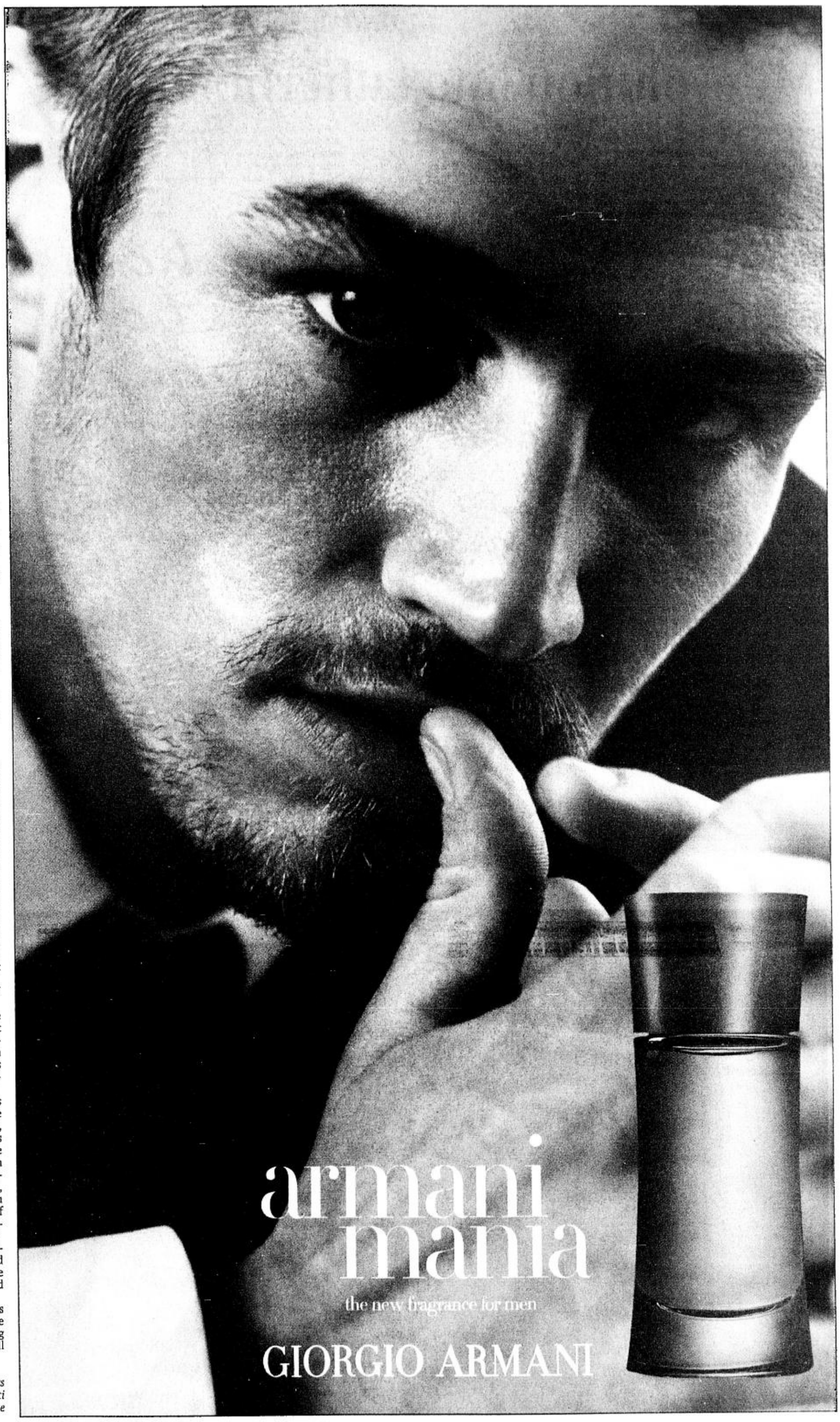
Judging from the date of your letter, if she was my friend, she would have told me about it already. I suggest you write to Cesar Mangawang, editor of the PDI Science and Health section. He may be able to give full details about your question. The subject is aspartame, not "apartment" as you heard.

Meantime, here are some backgrounders on why Diet Coke and Diet Pepsi should be avoided. To quote from a medical bulletin, Aspartame is a toxic chemical that changes the brain's chemistry; it is poisonous because one of its ingredients is wood alcohol. When the temperature exceeds 860°F, it is converted to formaldehyde, then to formic acid, which causes metabolic acidosis. As you know, formaldehyde is in the same class of poisons as cyanide and arsenic. To quote further, it kills quietly and takes a little longer.

There are 93 documented symptoms of aspartame poisoning leading to coma and death. The majority of these symptoms are neurological because aspartame attacks and destroys the nervous system.

Readers who wish to know more about this subject can turn to the Internet. Go to the search engine Google and do a search using the word *aspartame*. What you will see will surprise you.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City



NAGBALIK NA ANG
SOTANGHON! HON! HON!
Bagong-balik na Goldilocks Sotanghon, mas pinasarap pa!
Bukay Pinoy Kain Pinoy Sa Goldilocks

My evolution into fatherhood

From page C1

cover, comes with growing up; and on the other, there are the reins of caution we hold as parents, and are reluctant to let go of. And these often clash head on.

Unlike when they were kids, we can no longer be with them all of the time. In many instances, they are on their own, and we can only pray that we have given them enough life skills to survive the worst-case scenarios that drive a parent's imagination.

But no matter how we raise our daughters to be assertive and independent, there is always the specter of sexual assault and/or pregnancy—grist for a parent's paranoia—which can imprison them as our helpless victims.

For my daughters' sake and mine, I make sure we have regular talks, if only to impress upon them the importance of presence of mind, clear judgment, and the courage to say no in the culture of drugs, unwanted sex and reckless juvenile behavior which is their milieu.

I relate to them not only as their father but also as an adult male who has earned their trust by being open, which makes such talks a lot easier. To my knowledge, my advice is being heeded.

And even if the trust we have given them has not completely screened out some worrisome company they occasionally keep, or some behavior I do not approve of—like smoking—they have, on the whole, become positive influences to their friends, including those we worry about. What this tells me is, if you want people to behave responsibly, give them the chance to be responsible and accountable for their actions.

Although I still worry a lot about their personal safety when they go out at night, especially now that Erica drives, Lydia and I would not have it any other way—even if it means sleeping lightly with the cell phone on until they come home.

Fathering is a lot more than just raising children. It is about being fully and actively present as we raise and guide them to be not only "politically correct" and socially acceptable daughters and sons but, more importantly, to be good human beings.

With faith in their abilities, we must encourage them to explore the known and unknown aspects of who they are and what they are meant to be. We should be lucky to learn the unique shades and hues of love, nurturing, tolerance, letting go, understanding and compassion that a positive father-daughter relationship can offer.

The Dalai Lama was once asked what he thought of Mao Tse-Tung, who had ordered the harsh occupation by China of Tibet. Without missing a beat, he answered, "Mao Tse-Tung is my greatest teacher."

For all the trouble, the sleepless nights, the constant worrying and the wear-and-tear that my two daughters may have occasionally wrought on my health, my emotions and my marriage (not to mention my bank account), I must thank them for the kind of father they have made me become.

They have truly been my greatest teachers. They exact a high price for lessons learned. And they're not through with me yet. Right now, I am a graduate student pursuing a Ph.D. under two of the best mentors possible—Erica and Ala!

Come home in time to hear how soccer practice went.

Know the feeling of sitting for hours in traffic only to come home to kids who are already asleep? Too many parents do!

That's why Montgomery Place is fast becoming the townhouse community of choice for young families. Centrally-located in E. Rodriguez Ave., it lets you get home early enough to enjoy being a family. If you feel like taking the kids out to dinner, Montgomery Place is right next to the restaurant rows in Greenhills and Morato. And because it's an Ayala Land community, it promises to be the safe, quiet neighborhood you want your family to grow up in.

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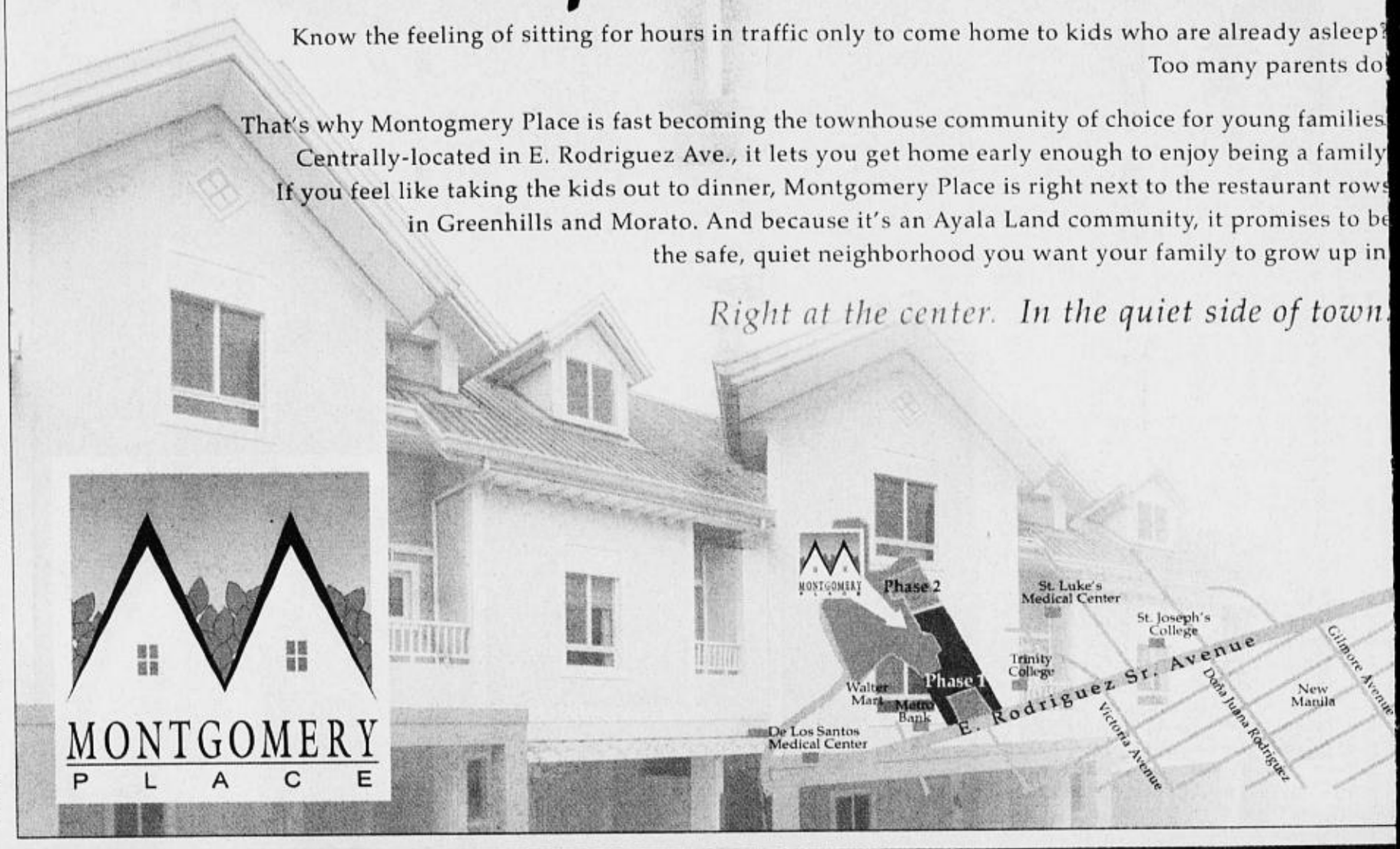

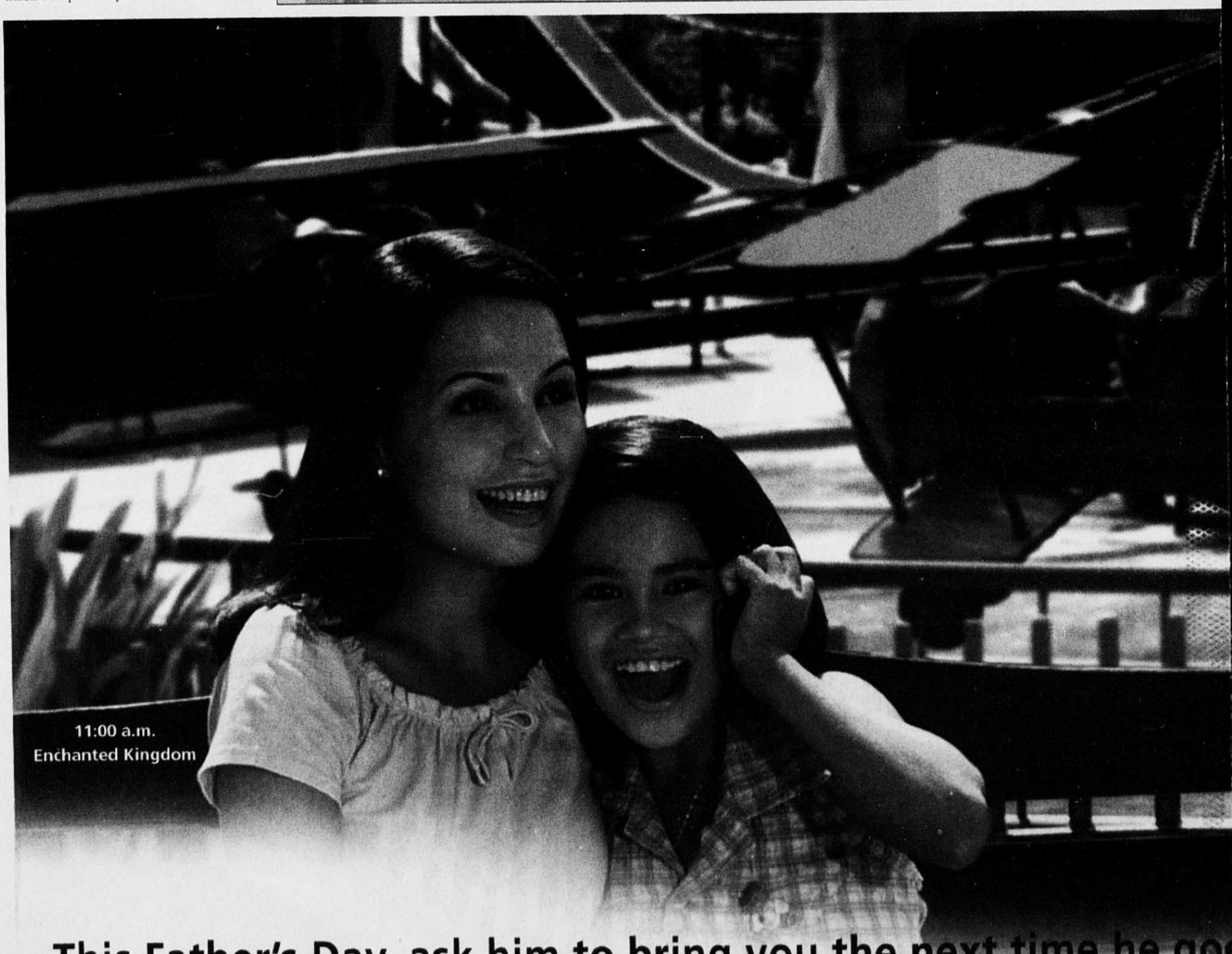

This Father's Day, ask him to bring you the next time he goe

Wish you could be with Daddy as he travels the world? Then give him a call this Father's Day and tell him dial + • Country Code • Area Code • Party's Number. And chat with him this Father's Day. It's be

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Treat Dad to special buffet of Filipino food

IN HONOR of all fathers, Cabalen has come up with something special for diners today, Father's Day. For every group of five partaking of Cabalen's sumptuous buffet offerings, a personalized mug specially made for fathers will be given away free.

Cabalen's luscious buffet features *lechon*, *sinigang na hipon*, *relyenong bangus*, Morcon Cabalen, Cabalen Salad, seafood *kare-kare*, *aligue mangga*, *sorbetes* and *halo-halo*.

The whole family can celebrate Father's Day at Cabalen for only P220+ for adults and P95 for kids 4 ft and below.

Cabalen restaurants are located at 67 West Ave., Quezon City; SM North Edsa; 4/L SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City; 2/L SM City Manila; 2/L Robinsons Place, Ermita; 214 Katipunan Ave., Quezon City; Brickroad Area, Sta. Lucia Grand Mall, Marcos Highway, Cainta, Rizal; and Cabalen Robinson's Starmills, San Fernando, Pampanga.

For catering services, call 647-4988 or 647-5088, or visit the website www.cabalenrestaurant.com.

Fun places for dads and kids to bond

ON JUNE 16, Father's Day, Dreamscape and Dream Town are throwing a big, fun-filled party for dads. The first 20 fathers to visit any of the Robinsons Recreation Corp.'s (RRC) theme parks and buy a ride-all-you-can Dream Day ticket will get a free caricature bringing out the funny side of dad. Actor Mandy Ochoa will also hold a storytelling session at Dreamscape.

Dads can take their kids on a mini-excursion to the thrilling theme parks where they can watch the Puppet Show, romp around with Dreamscape and Dream Town's cuddly and adorable mascots and take one of the pleasure-filled rides.

In Dreamscape, try out the "Super Sonic V" or fly around in the "Thunder Cruiser." Kiddie rides also include the "Grand Parade" and the "Dream Wheel."

In Dream Town, speed down the "Amazing Racer" track or whirl around in the "Wind Rider." Delight in the "Enchanted Caterpillar" and travel through time on the "Time Machine."

Dreamscape is located at the 4/L of Robinsons Galleria, while Dream Town is on the 3/L of Robinsons Place Manila. RRC also operates Dream Zone in Robinsons Place Imus and Robinsons Metro East, Pasig City.

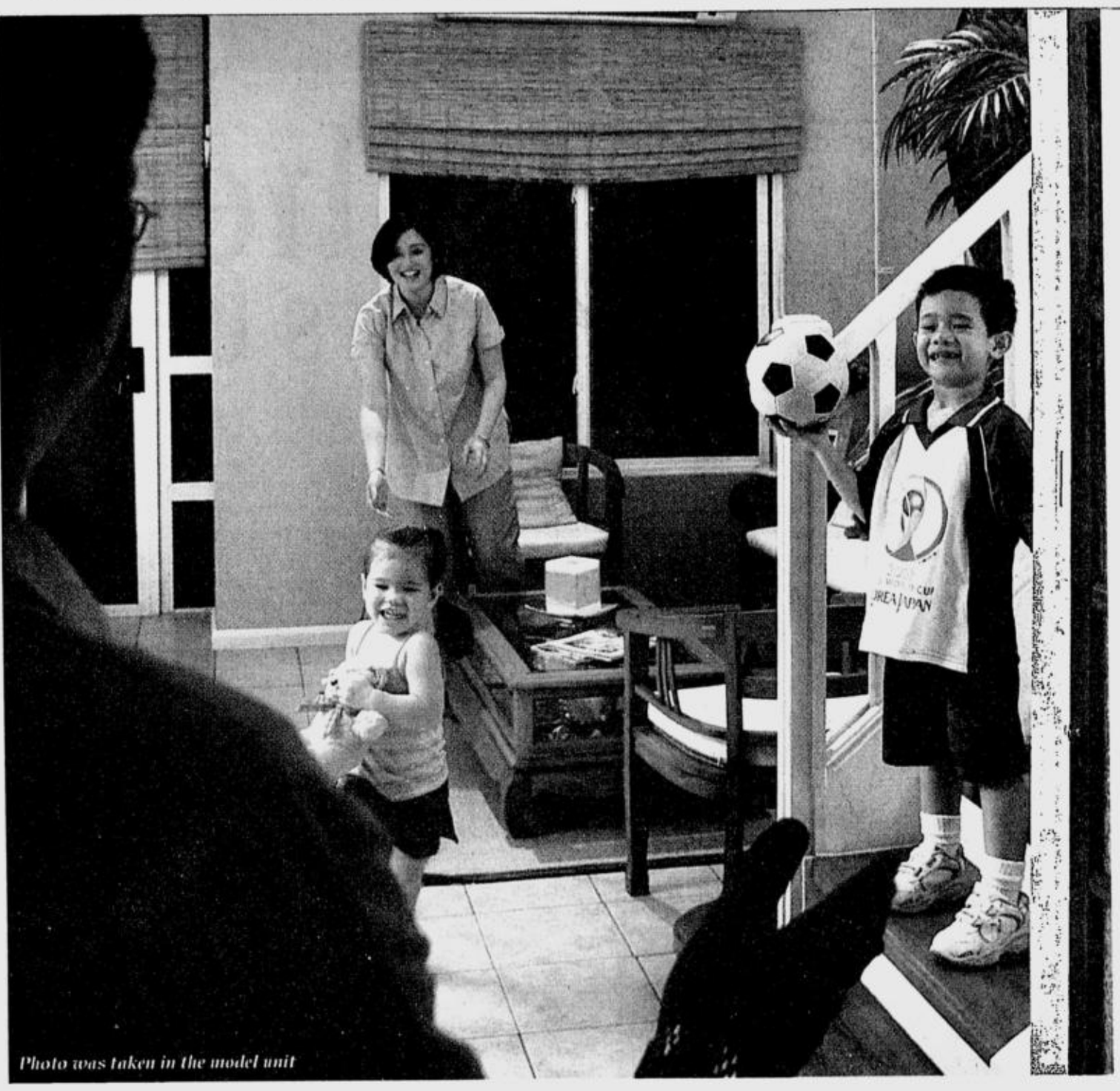

Photo was taken in the model unit

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SEN. Panfilo Lacson

VJ Vivien Tan

She looks like the girl next door, but there's much, much more to Channel {V}'s newest VJ, the enchanting Vivien Tan. Wacth out!

The Malaysian-Australian beauty joined Channel {V} International in October, 2000 and has been charming Channel {V} viewers across Asia ever since. On *{V} Countdown*, the signature chart show, she affably presents Asia's favourite international music. While on *The Juice*. {V}'s forum for the smoothest R&B, soul and funk videos in music today, Viv's been shaking things up and showing her funkier side.

However, this is by no means her first brush with fame. Vivien has found success as an actress, model, TV presenter, and general super woman, Her smooth presenting as the anchor for a Singaporean entertainment television show, and early morning DJ on a Singapore radio station.

Perhaps her universal charm comes from her international upbringing: Vivien was born in Singapore grew up in Hong Kong and went to university in Australia. Currently based in Singapore, this unassuming start somehow finds time to even run her own interior design business on the side.

After reading through the list of her talents, it won't come as a surprise that out Vivien Tan also sings, She currently admitted.

"Actually, music has always been my first love. I'm thrilled to finally have the chance to share it with loads of other people!"

the V-Files

-I love Jazz and Latin music. The best place for Latin music is Brannigans at Chijmes.

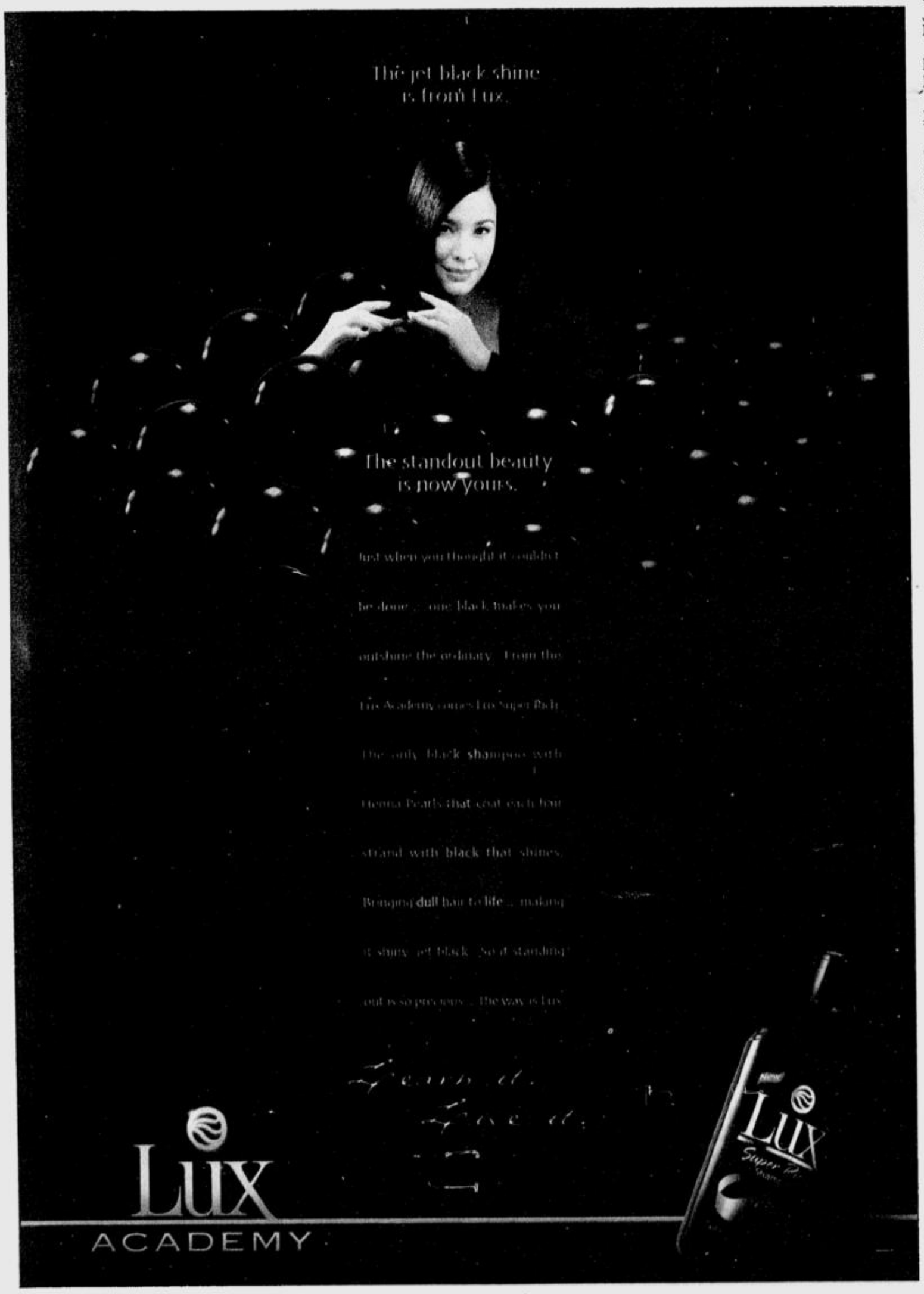
-My favourite food is. . .my next meal! I do love chicken and it must come with ginger sauce.

-My most underrated talent: I'm a great party coordinator! I helped to coordinate a girlfriend's hen night party: we had blonde wigs, feather boas and fans, the works!

-I hate ironing. I've tried ironing to music, while watching TV, and no matter what, I end up feeling suicidal after half an hour! So I try not to buy clothes that need to be ironed. I can scrub floors, make a great lamb cutlet with mint sauce but I can't iron!

-Tech toys I can't live without are my Palm VC organizer (yummy!) and my aqua Mac iBook.

-If I inherited $1 million dollars, I would buy a yacht and get the thrill of facing those 10-foot waves.



Father knows best

LIFESTYLE asked some of the more prominent men about town for the best piece of advice they got from their fathers. Not everyone responded—could it be that those who begged off or were stumped by the question had something irresolvable with their fathers? But those who did answer evinced a certain fondness and affection that was uncharacteristically "un-macho"? The answers below should show that in the brotherhood of men, some tenderness reigns.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr.
"Don't avoid work that may soil your hands, like that of a mechanic or a laborer. Respect manual labor."

Sen. Gregorio Honasan
"My father taught me that, in the crunches, the only things that will keep your head above water are professional competence and integrity. You will suffer setbacks, but in the long run, people will judge you according to your dependability and adherence to certain values. When they know your price, especially in material terms, then they have won. My father also reminded me that leaders are needed before scholars are determined. Leadership can move men and mountains."

LANCE Gokongwei

Luis "Lucky" Manzano
"Never judge a person by what he has in his wallet but what he has in his heart."

Edu Manzano
"'Life was never meant to be easy so fasten your seatbelt because you're in for a hell of a ride.' And I say that so far, truer words have never been spoken."

Lance Gokongwei
"You can be successful in business, socially, etc., but you can only be truly happy if you have a good family life."

Dato Arroyo
"Never be ashamed of being wrong. It's a good way to know what is right."

Arturo Macapagal
"Do what is right and do your best and let God take care of the rest."

Pancho Escaler
"The most important thing you have is your name; you carry it forever. Don't ever give anyone reason to destroy it. It's the most valuable thing I can leave you."

Albert Martinez
"Life is short—enjoy every minute of it."

Martin Nievera
"Dad gave me advice for on

RIKKI Dee

stage and off: 'Whatever you do, focus and always look into the light. Sincerity is the key to success. Whatever you do, do it because you love it and because it makes you happy.'"

Dyords Javier
"Most useful advice: 'When one has nothing good to say, shut up.' Most important: 'In life one cannot buy or beg for love and respect.' Most memorable: 'Make your life be like a roll of toilet paper: long and useful.'"

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia with son Chris

REP. Noynoy Aquino

ARTURO Macapagal

BAHAM Mitra

EDWARD Delgado

BEN Farrales

DYORDS Javier

ATOM Henares

FR. Tamerlane Lana, O.P.

PANCHO Escaler

Atom Henares
"If you can solve a problem, why waste your time worrying about it? Solve it! If you can't solve it, what's the use of worrying about it?"

Edward Delgado
"One, never make a decision when you are in an emotional state. Two, wife and children add or subtract from your emotional state. Ultimately, wife and children are more important than money."

Jose Isidro N. Camacho
"My father died very young.at 49 when I had just graduated from college at 19. For as long as I could remember, he was always very sickly and was partially paralyzed. Despite his handicap, he was still able to practice his profession as a lawyer and start a business. Not so much through his words but through his actions and behavior, I picked up the best advice I could get from a father: To make the best with what you have; and to be kind to other people."

Ben Farrales
"Don't forget to respect yourself and hold on to your dignity no matter what you chose to become."

Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J.
"My father's repeated advice to us was: 'Life is difficult (*Narigat ti biag, anakko*, in Ilocano). You have to study hard and work hard.' The role models he presented to us were simple people who, by dint of perseverance and hard work, succeeded in educating themselves and in giving their children a good education."

Fr. Tamerlane Lana, O.P.
"My father used to tell us to take advantage of the meager blessings that came to our lives. One blessing was the opportunity to have a relatively decent living. Another was the opportunity for us, nine brothers and sisters, to pursue higher education despite all the hardships."

Gene Gonzalez
"My father always wanted me to mix and learn the ways of all classes. I mixed with the farmers and the barrio folk and street children. Those experiences taught me to be street-smart, to communicate and, above all, to be simple. Mixing with the upper echelons, on the other hand, gave me more complex ideas, probably refinement. I can be comfortable in any setting. I think that advice has helped a lot in my career."

Mon Isberto
"Watch out for the small things. That's the problem of men—we tend to ignore the small things."

Rikki Dee
"My dad said, 'Be prudent. Be frugal.' I've always followed it."

Speaker Jose de Venecia
"Read, read and read. For in reading, you acquire great knowledge."

Baham Mitra
"There was one time when Tatay said to me that when you're already there—'remember you do not owe me anything but owe the next generation.' I realized that he paved the way so life would be easier for me and I intend to do the same for the next generation. Life—or politics—does not end here. But a good reputation and decency transcend generations. I also remember him saying that if it's worth doing, it's worth doing well. He, however, warned me that I'm the type who might end up killing himself because I tried to please everybody. He said I should set and take my own course but never to forget the basics such as decency, honesty and public service."

EDU Manzano

LUIS Manzano

Sen. Panfilo Lacson
"Honesty, steadfastness, focus."

Rep. Noynoy Aquino
"I guess it's the example of my father's life—of not being attracted to material things. Even in the darkest hour of his life, when everybody had abandoned him, he was so focused on his vision for the country that his material wants were almost nonexistent. He brought us up to value simplicity in life. He considered being *suwapang* a mortal sin. There was a point he even gave away my favorite pet dog."

Butch Jimenez
"Learn to paddle your own canoe."

BUTCH Jimenez

FR. Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J.

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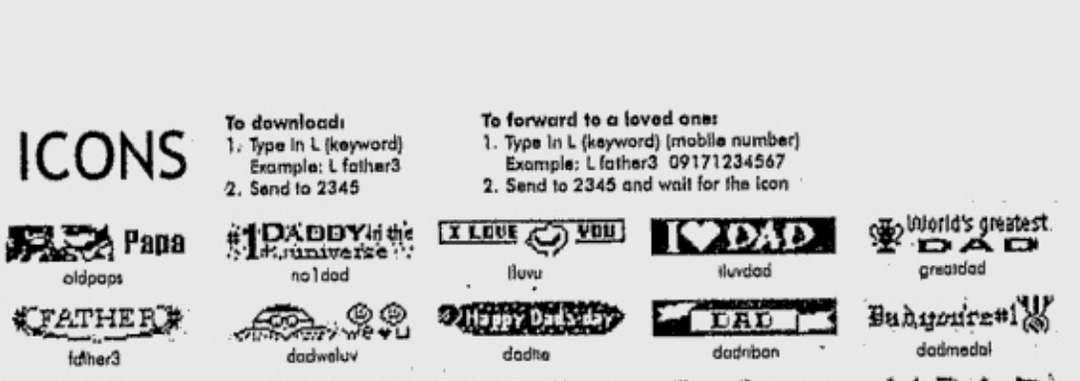

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SONG TITLE	KEYWORD	ARTIST
AS TIME GOES BY	timegoes	Stanley Black & Orchestra
BATANG BATA KA PA	batang	Apo Hiking Society
FAITHFUL FATHER	faithful	Brian Doerksen
FOREVER YOUNG	4evryng	Alphaville
GROW OLD WITH YOU	growold	Adam Sandler
WHAT MATTERS MOST	watmtrs	Kenny Rankin
IF YOU WANNA BE HAPPY	wnabhapi	Jimmy Soul
I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU	ilbder	The Rembrandts
I'LL HAVE TO SAY I LOVE YOU IN A SONG	inluvsng	Jim Croce
LOVE IS A WONDERFUL THING	loveis	Michael Bolton
LOVE ME FOR A REASON	luvme4	Boyzone
LOVE WILL KEEP US ALIVE	lovekeep	Eagles
SOMEBODY	somebody	Depecha Mode
WE ARE FAMILY	werfamly	Sister Sledge
WHAT A DIFFERENCE YOU'VE MADE IN MY LIFE	whatadif	Amy Grant
YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE	urmysun	Travis Wammack
YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING	u2me	Real Thing
YOUR LOVE KEEPS LIFTING ME HIGHER HIGHER	higher	Chicago
YOUR SMILING FACE	ursmilin	James Taylor
YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND	gotfrnd2	James Taylor

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Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

FRIENDS FOREVER. Christine Jacob and Rio Diaz in an emotional moment

Weddings become material for candid camera

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

VETERAN photojournalist Chito Vecina brings with him 25 years of work experience as he embarks on his latest venture—wedding photography.

If his wedding shots are as sharp and as candid as his other noteworthy and award-winning pieces, then couples are pretty much assured of getting quality pictures that capture the color and drama of a memorable event.

"I make it a point to go beyond the typical by looking for something new or different in every scene," says Vecina, a regular contributor to this paper's Lifestyle section. "As a photojournalist, I try to combine news elements with human interest."

The 40-year-old Vecina knows whereof he speaks. After all, his best and most memorable years were spent covering hard news and sports.

As one of the pioneers in this paper, he covered a chain of historic events that began during the dying days of the Marcos dictatorship. He later joined a competitor just when a series of coups and natural disasters started hogging the headlines during the Cory years.

Vecina worked for a few years in Hong Kong for the now-defunct Hong Kong Standard. After covering a series of tumultuous events in Manila, the four years he spent in the former Crown Colony seemed like a breeze.

"I didn't cover anything as dramatic as the Edsa Revolution," he says, "but my experience in Hong Kong honed my skills as an art director. I had no one to rely on to conceptualize those artsy shots."

When he returned home for good in 1997, it was but natural for Vecina to try his hand at interior and fashion photography. At the same time, colleague and good friend Mel Cortez encouraged him to give wedding photography a try. Cortez, a former photojournalist with Business World, has become a full-time lensman for newlyweds.

But Vecina was not ready to turn his back on photojournalism. He bided his time as he learned the ropes of wedding photography by joining Cortez as a guest photographer during the latter's gigs. At the same time, Vecina also covered several big weddings for the Lifestyle section.

Early this year, Vecina finally decided to put his knowledge to good use by accepting wedding shoots on weekends. He has so far shot a dozen or so weddings, aside from those he covered for PDI.

Couples who will avail of Vecina's services as wedding photographer won't be seeing anything as dramatic as Mt. Pinatubo's eruption as a backdrop—unless they ask for it. What Vecina promises to deliver are rare, unguarded moments many lensmen would probably miss.

After all, such joyful occasions could be expressed in a thousand and one ways. Before TV personality Christine Jacob exchanged "I do's" with Paco Sandejas, for instance, Vecina was able to capture the bride in an emotional moment with good friend Rio Diaz. Several shots later, the same woman was completely transformed, looking radiant as she hugged her new husband.

In another picture, an engaged couple gamely posed with hundreds of tombstones. Their undying pledge? Of course: "Till death do us part!" The same pair later sat behind an acacia tree in a classic pose symbolizing re-

WEDDINGS/ p.D6

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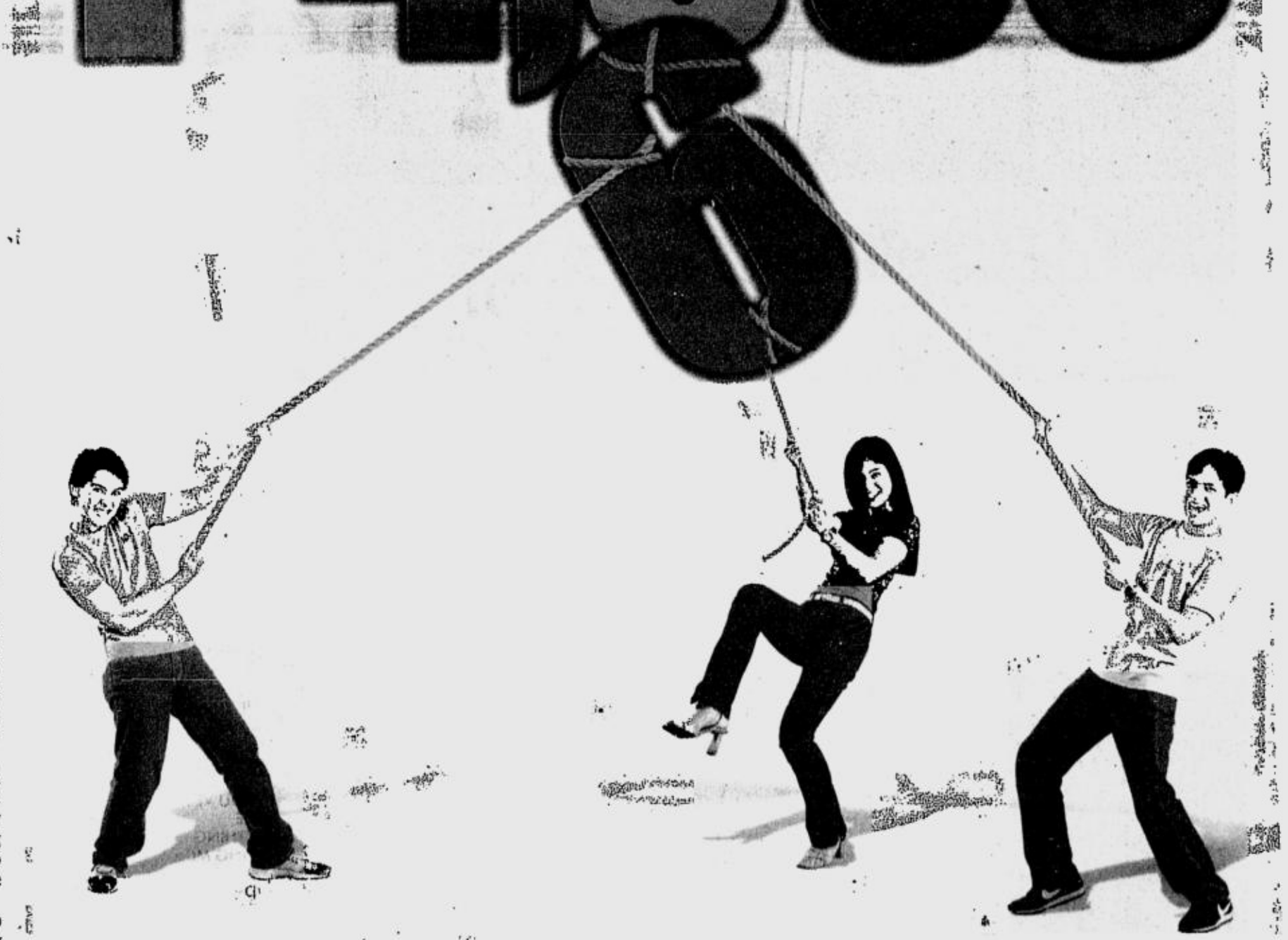

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The girl who . . .

From page D8

terious lady, if you want to know me, let's meet." To gain the upper hand, Andrea chose the venue and time. When they finally met, Dick said: "Oh. It's you."

City of gentle people

Whatever transpired between Andrea and Dick after those three simple words must have been significant. They certainly have gone a long way since—first marrying in civil rites at a Quezon City Regional Trial Court on Dec. 13, 1994, then in solemn Christian ceremonies at the Sta. Monica Beach Resort in Dumaguete last May 20. They are blessed with three lovely children: Zeus Benedict, 7; Irina Sofia, 5; and Anna Isabel, 3.

Pastor Glenn Maypa, who flew in from the Word for the World Christian Fellowship-Cebu City, officiated at the rites by the beach, while his son, Bjorn, sang à cappella the procession song, "Forever More."

Friends and family flew to the City of Gentle People to attend the memorable occasion. Best man was Dick's brother, Nixon, while matron of honor was INQUIRER reporter Christine Herrera, the bride's former colleague. Groomsmen were barrister Gil Costes, "Newsbreak" reporter Aries Rufo and Paul Trofeo; bridesmaids were former Star reporter Gina Tabonares and Anne Espiritu. Nadezhda Iskra Herrera, Christine's daughter, was the junior bridesmaid.

Traveling all the way from The Hague, The Netherlands, just to stand witness was human rights lawyer Romeo Capulong. Principal sponsors were Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson; lawyer Rodrigo Icao; RAM stalwart Col. Danilo Lim and his wife Aloysia; Ruby Paurom, wife of INQUIRER assistant news editor Nilo Paurom; Baby Jambora; and Vernie Yu, the bride's favorite high-school teacher. Other sponsors, who were unable to attend, were Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina, who sent a representative; INQUIRER columnist Amando Doronila, Narciso Santiago Jr., INQUIRER editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc; Fides Lim and Rep. Nanette Daza.

Poolside reception

Grace Viari and Ferdie Manansala, the bride's friends from church, lit the ceremonial candles; groomsman Paul and bridesmaid Anne placed the veil, and Joey Abella and Irene Flores the cord. Olin Benjamin Paurom was ring bearer; Anton Mari Trinidad, coin bearer; and the couple's son, Ben-Ben, Bible bearer. Lovely flower girls were the couple's daughters Pia and Star, Gabrielle Claudia Herrera, Sofia Therese Trinidad and Ma. Carmela Sofia Rivera.

About 100 guests attended the charming beach wedding. The re-

THE GIRL / p.D1

ANDREA in an Anggie Cordero-designed gown with her dad Jesus

WITH THEIR children Pia, Ben and Star

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WITH THE SECONDARY sponsors

THE GROOM'S family

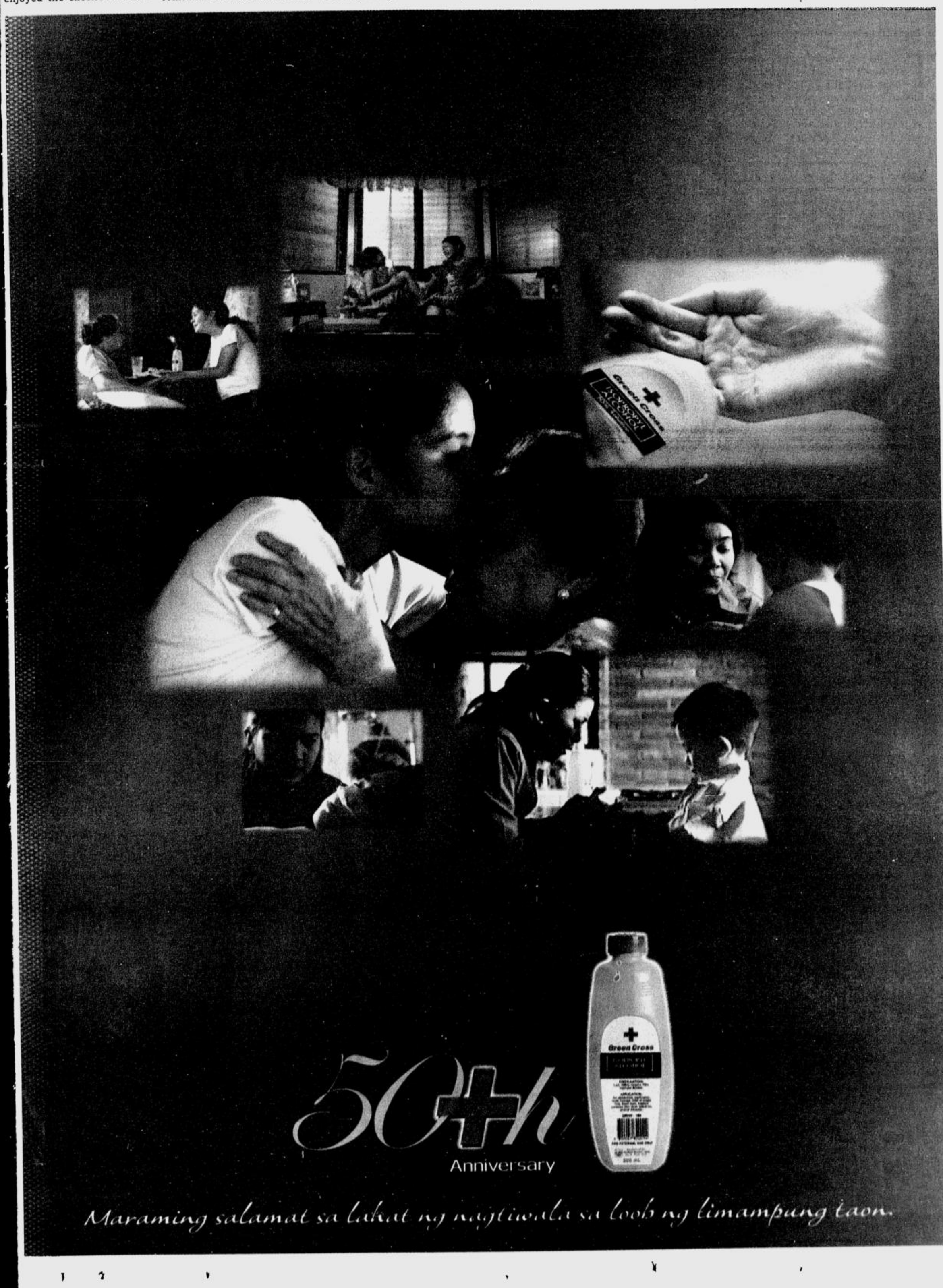
The girl who would not be ignored gets her man

From page D2

ception that followed was held at the poolside of the resort. Guests enjoyed the excellent buffet meal—especially the famous Visayan *lechon*, delicious even without the *sarsa*.

Andrea is the daughter of Jesus Trinidad and the late Sofia Hernandez, while Dick is the son of Seferina Echavez and the late Eleizer Echavez. The bride's family—Ana Carla, Anthony, Amparo Lourdes, Alvin, Jesus Amado, Jesus Manuel and Nancy Anne—came with their broods. Nixon, Ann Evan, Marilou and Paul, Dick's brothers and sisters, and their mother, all attended.

Instead of throwing the bouquet, as tradition dictates, Andrea instead presented it to the woman she admired most—Ruby Paurom. "Ruby has such a strong character. She perfectly balances career and family—all seven children at that. I look up to her, hoping someday I could become like her," Andrea said.



SMILE, YOU'RE ON CANDID CAMERA. A worried bride (far left) is coaxed by friends to smile (left).

Catching oft-ignored wedding scenes

By Diana Uichanco

THEY are sure to be there—shots of the bride's veil, gown and shoes arranged on the bed, the bride with her parents before leaving for the church, the bride and groom's first kiss as husband and wife, the couple cutting the cake at the reception, and hundreds more that document a wedding from start to finish.

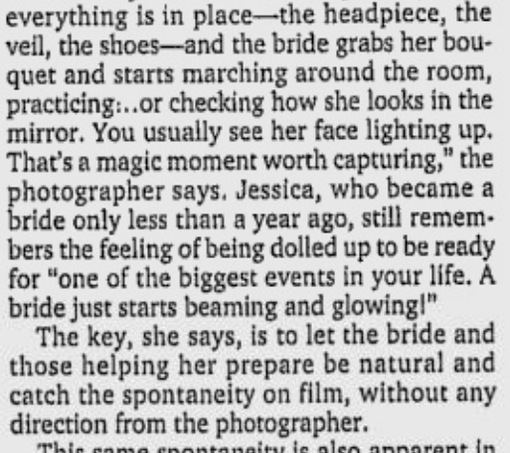
But Eugene and Jessica Lara (426-0987; 0917-7008682; 0919-3690457; jdlara@edsamail.com.ph), the husband-and-wife team behind Paragon Pictures, get a bit closer, capturing some wonderful moments that would have otherwise been missed by other photographers who would see them merely as ordinary scenes in any wedding.

Time spent with the bride alone reveals enough enchanting moments, like when she's getting all primped up before facing her groom. The pre-wedding sessions with the bride are among Jessica's favorites of any wedding she's shooting. Husband Eugene drops in on the groom at his house or hotel room and clicks away while she stays with the bride.

"Seeing harried, nervous brides transformed into beautiful princesses in a matter of minutes is just wonderful! Especially once everything is in place—the headpiece, the veil, the shoes—and the bride grabs her bouquet and starts marching around the room, practicing:..or checking how she looks in the mirror. You usually see her face lighting up. That's a magic moment worth capturing," the photographer says. Jessica, who became a bride only less than a year ago, still remembers the feeling of being dolled up to be ready for "one of the biggest events in your life. A bride just starts beaming and glowing!"

The key, she says, is to let the bride and those helping her prepare be natural and catch the spontaneity on film, without any direction from the photographer.

This same spontaneity is also apparent in altar shots that sometimes show grooms so overcome with emotion that they momentarily drop their cool façade. Different facial expressions—ear-to-ear grins, incessant gulping or nervous lip-biting—register on the face of the groom waiting at the altar as he watches his bride walking toward him.



WHO says only brides and mothers cry at weddings?

The Laras prefer candid shots and in black-and-white. Jessica and Eugene say they try to include black-and-white photos in each coverage even when clients don't ask for them since some images come out more powerfully.

They experiment with different styles in each wedding they document. The variety of styles is most likely due to their different areas of expertise. Eugene (who won first prize in the 1998 Bodyshots photo tilt) has had considerable training in advertising and is used to directing or choreographing pictorials. Jessica, on the other hand, took a photography class in college and honed her skills working for a newspaper, training under photographers covering news, sports and lifestyle. For several years photography was only a hobby as video became top priority in her job as television segment producer.

With Eugene, Jessica said, "We're able to do both traditional and non-traditional treatments of our wedding coverage—traditional meaning posed portraits and stylized glamour shots, non-traditional meaning candid but meaningful shots. I'm more comfortable with the situational shots..."

The husband-and-wife team can and do work separately, dividing the shooting between them.

"Since my wife and I are principal photographers and we can work independently of each other, we can divide the coverage and work on our own. We're able to cover different portions of the event simultaneously," says Eugene. "Of course, business-wise, what we're doing is not very cost-efficient since we could very easily just split up and cover two different weddings at the same time, if we get two bookings in a day. But weddings for us are very important occasions and we don't want to sacrifice one for another. I think our efforts blend so well together."

A husband-and-wife team of photographers prefers taking candid shots of the nuptial party; he takes care of the groom and she handles the bride

Noticeable in their work is the presence of the groom in several photos—with the bride nowhere in sight.

"Let's put it this way—I've been a groom, too, only recently, and I realized that after all the fanfare, the only pictures I had were at the wedding ceremony and reception. *Ni wala ngang* solo *eh*, unlike my wife!" Eugene says. "This got me thinking...when the time comes that my wife and I share our pictures with our grandchildren, I won't have any to show them of the preparations I made. They might get the impression that weddings are just for brides, and the grooms are just extras!"

Jessica adds, "You must admit that women really wear the more elaborate wedding attires complete with trimmings and paraphernalia. I guess seeing how much time, money and effort they put into becoming such perfect brides, society tends to put women more in the limelight. But grooms are as much a part of the wedding as the brides and, in fact, may care as much about how they look on their wedding as their partners."

So the pair decided to break tradition. Splitting up during wedding pictorials, he takes care of the grooms while she handles the brides. While a man styling his hair or preening in his Barong may not be nearly as charming as a woman setting her tiara in place or watching her full skirt swoosh about her, it does make one realize that, yes, the groom does get ready for the Big Day, too.

In fact, it is not only the groom who gets more "exposure" with the photographer couple—a teary-eyed father, a bored ring bearer, friends coaxing the bride to smile—even a row of bridesmaids' bouquets can catch their attention. And of course, a yawning flower girl.

FOR ONCE, a photo of the groom getting ready for the ceremony

PRE-WEDDING session with the bride catches her sending a text message to hopefully her groom

HOW TO cherish an engagement ring

BOREDOM. A flower girl is caught in mid-yawn

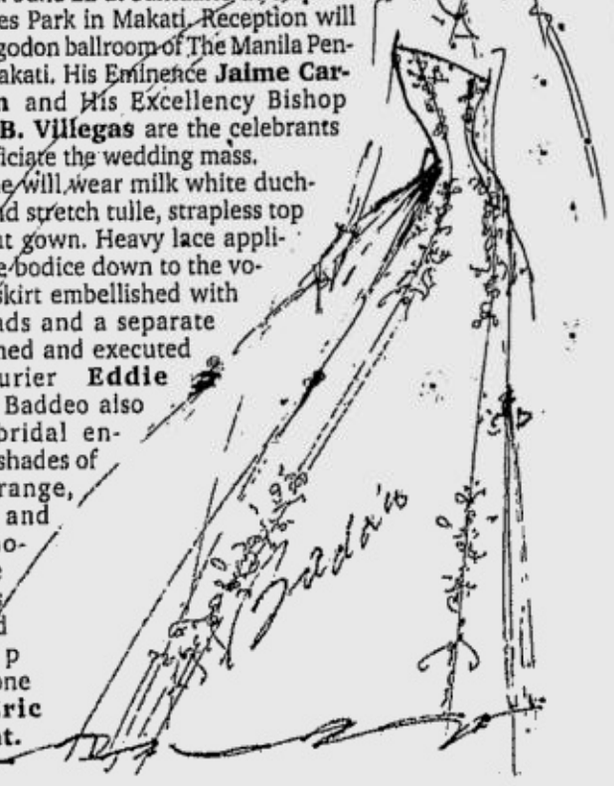
Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

ALBANO-IGNACIO

Aileen Ignacio, daughter of Dr. **David and Aida Ignacio,** will marry **Paul Albano,** son of **Eusebio and Erlinda Albano,** on June 22 at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park in Makati. Reception will follow at Rigodon ballroom of The Manila Peninsula in Makati. His Eminence **Jaime Cardinal Sin** and His Excellency Bishop **Socrates B. Villegas** are the celebrants and will officiate the wedding mass.

The bride will wear milk white duchess satin and stretch tulle, strapless top princess-cut gown. Heavy lace appliques on the bodice down to the voluminous skirt embellished with caviar beads and a separate tail, designed and executed by couturier **Eddie Baddeo.** Baddeo also did the bridal ensemble in shades of melon orange, copper and mauve motif. The bride's hair and make-up will be done by **Eric Maningat.**



TALEON-DOJILLO

Anthony G. Taleon, son of engineer **Felimon Jr.** and **Teresita Taleon,** will wed **Maria Theresa V. Dojillo,** daughter of lawyer **Joel** and **Febe Dojillo,** on June 22 at the INC Chapel in Bacolod City. Reception will follow at the Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel. **Randy Ortiz** created the gowns of the bride and her entourage.

ESPADA-GASMEN

Rowena Gasmen, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Eriberto A. Gasmen Sr.,** will wed **Andre Espada,** son of Mr. and Ms **Andres T. Espada,** on June 26 at the Our Lady of Remedies Parish (Malate Church). The bride will wear a gown by **Tito Franco.**

TANGLAO-TIOTUICO

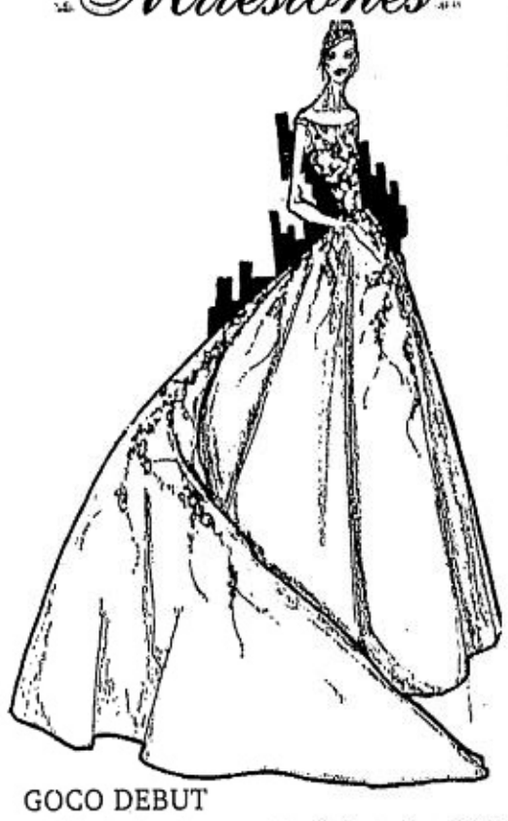
Melissa Tiotuico, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Filonilo P. Tiotuico** of Angeles City wed **Vincent Theodore,** son of Mr. and Ms **Marino G. Tanglao,** on June 8 at Our Lady of Remedies Chapel 1, Air Force City, Clark Field, Pampanga.

Reception follows at the Grand Ballroom, Holiday Inn Resort Mimosa Leisure Estate, Clark Field, Pampanga.

The bride will wear a bustier corsette style in duchess silk material embroidered with mixed stones, cut beads and pearls with detachable train.

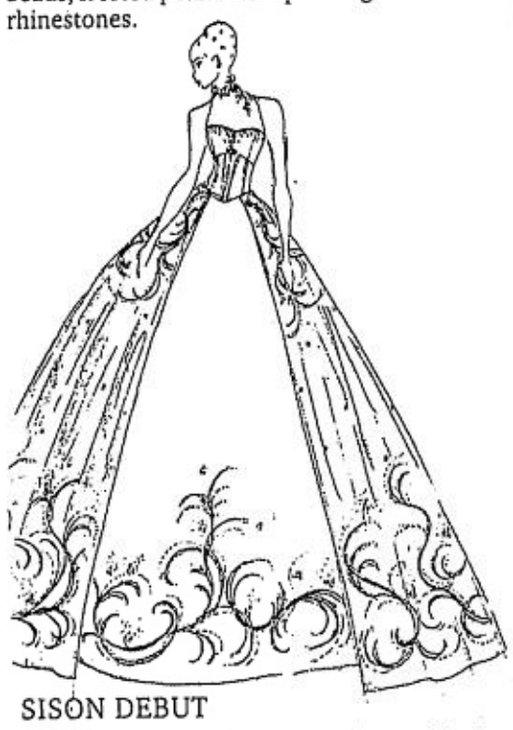
Design by **Manny Dizon Ocampo** of Angeles City.

Milestones



GOCO DEBUT

Ria Lyka Goco will celebrate her 18th birthday on June 21 at the Isla Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. She will wear a **Ricci Lizaso** creation—a French iridescent magenta taffeta ball gown with dainty pastel flowerets outlined with shimmering crystal beads, frosted pearls and sparkling Swarovski rhinestones.



SISON DEBUT

Maria Michelle Racquel Bonifacio Sison celebrated her 18th birthday on June 14 at the Maynila Ballroom of the Manila Hotel. She is the only daughter of **Rainier** and **Leonida Sison**.

The debutante, a student at the University of Asia and the Pacific, wore a medieval-inspired gown by **Patrice Ramos-Diaz**. Floral design was by **Tony M. Rodriguez**. Pastry Bin provided the cake while **Hedda Ramos** of Details and Design coordinated the affair.

Photojournalist-turned-wedding-chronicler delivers rare, unguarded moments many other lensmen would probably miss

WHEN boredom sets in...

become material for candid camera

From page D1

newal and permanence.

Then there was a flower girl. Perhaps bored to death by the long drawn-out event, the poor girl was photographed holding her skirt up and heading for a secluded corner of the garden.

How does Vecina manage to capture moments like these? "I have one or two people working for me," he explains. "While I look for unique photo ops, they take care of the traditional shots."

Vecina offers clients a choice between film or digital media. Although the second option costs more, says Vecina, images stored in a CD last longer than those captured on film. Aside from being impervious to dusts and scratches, digital photographs can be corrected, improved or enhanced with special effects.

"As a bonus," he says, "I also do the engagement photos of couples who go for digital photography. The films or CDs of their weddings belong to the couple. My services include sequencing, editing and customized layouts."

For someone who once thought of quitting photojournalism when he turned 40, Vecina now vows to stay in the business for good. A shift in his focus is highly unlikely.

You can view Vecina's best works at www.chitovecina.netfirms.com or e-mail him at tochivecina@yahoo.com

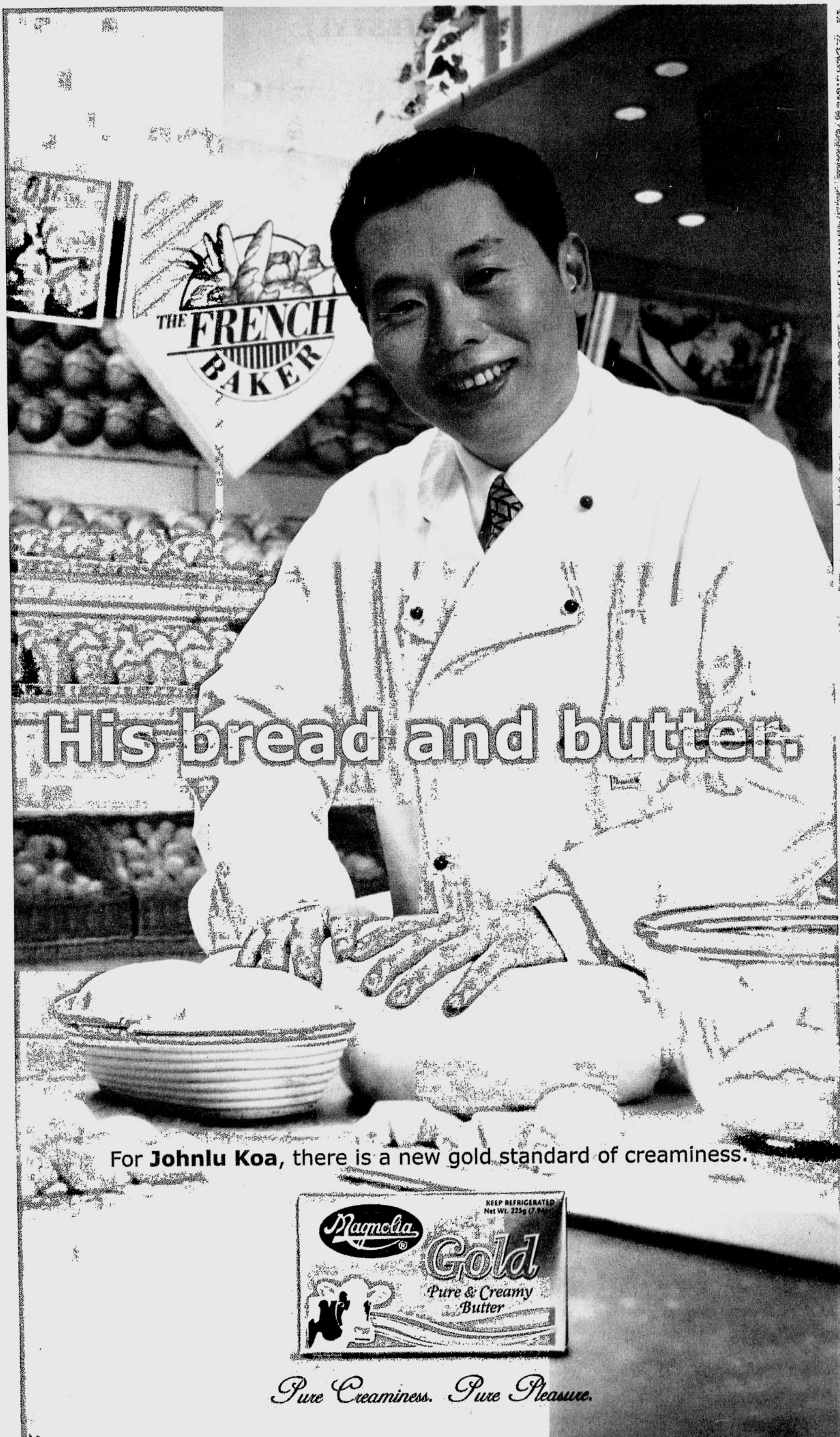
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

CRYBABY

WINDSWEPT wedding

MY turn

TRIO-IN-WAITING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DICK and Andrea

The girl who would not be ignored gets her man

She was unaccustomed to such haughty behavior from men, especially since she had numerous admirers

By Anne A. Jambora

It was in January 1992 when Andrea Trinidad was first introduced to Dick Echavez by her fraternity brod—and Dick's brother—Nixon. Both were then students at Silliman University, Dumaguete City.

In the days that followed, however, her encounters with Dick in the campus were rather disturbing—he neither said hi nor smiled.

But after several of those encounters, Andrea decided to take matters into her own hands. She was unaccustomed to such haughty behavior from men, especially since she had numerous admirers. She felt annoyed and spurned—but challenged just the same.

So Andrea sent out neophytes from her sorority to research on the man who wouldn't smile at her. When several strangers started asking all sorts of questions Dick, he was intrigued and sent a note to one of them: "Mys-

THE GIRL/ p. D2

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OLD World dining in Brennan's courtyard

Breakfast and bananas at Brennan's

Text and photos by Cathy Babao Guballa
with photos from the book "Breakfast at Brennan's, and Dinner Too"

HOLLY Golightly would have loved to dine here.

Had Audrey Hepburn's character in the romantic comedy "Breakfast at Tiffany's" stumbled upon this charming restaurant located in the French Quarter District—417 Royal St., to be precise—in New Orleans, Louisiana, she would have spent her mornings feasting on Eggs Hussarde and Bananas Foster, chucking the diamonds altogether.

Time stands still when you enter this 200-year-old building, built in 1795 by Vincent Rilleaux, great grandfather of noted painter Edgar Degas. Brennan's breakfast menu describes the ambiance perfectly: "Turn back the clock to the time when the French aristocrats of New Orleans dined in leisurely elegance, when breakfast was served in the patio amidst the soft rustle of exotic plants, a refreshing breeze from palmetto fans and the romantic aroma of magnolia blossoms."

It is a restaurant rich in architectural and gastronomic history. Much of its success it owes to its founding father, Owen Edward Brennan, who opened his first restaurant in 1946. The restaurant became Brennan's in 1955 when it moved to the current building which was leased from Tulane University and later purchased by Owen's sons in 1986.

The building has two stories with 12 rooms, including the main dining area that faces a lovely courtyard. Each room has a color scheme and is decorated with sketches that follow a New Orleans theme.

Brennan was called the "wonder man" of the New Orleans restaurant industry. His Irish stubbornness compelled him to work extremely long and hard hours to place Brennan's on the culinary map.

In the 1950s, Owen was known in Hollywood movie circles and entertained some of the brightest stars in his French Quarter restaurant—Vivian Leigh, John Wayne, Robert Mitchum, Barbara Stanwyck, Robert Taylor, Gary Cooper, Jane Russell and Tennessee Williams, to name a few. Brennan died of a heart attack at the age of 45, a year before his dream restaurant opened. His sons, Pip, Ted and Jimmy successfully took over the business.

BREAKFAST/ p.E4

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Big firms act on consumer complaints; elderly raise howl over drug store

SUMMER is always a big headache to consumer care guys in food processing companies because this is the season when product spoilage and insect contamination are at their worst. We received our share of complaints from readers. We're happy to report that two of the companies responded promptly to the cases we forwarded to them. Our next column will report on the other responsive companies. It will include our interview with Nestle's consumer services vice president, Jo Duran, where she discusses how the 130-year-old food company—reputedly the largest in the world—takes care of consumer complaints and how it assures product safety and quality.

This week, we report on Pillsbury Philippines, which responded promptly to the complaint of Anna dela Cruz of San Juan about discoloration of the hotcake mix she bought at a local grocery store. Two Pillsbury representatives visited the residence of Santos to verify her complaint. They retrieved the spoiled product after giving the side of the company, and left two boxes of hotcake mix to replace the spoiled product.

But that was not the end of the story. The company representatives also inspected the concerned grocery's shelves to check the condition of the other products in the same lot. When we traced the path of the spoiled product, we were told that the sample was assessed by the company's quality assurance manager and the findings filed for future reference.

Our praises to Pillsbury's attending staff—Aden Torres, Karen Tabije, and the company R&D person, Rosee Arro.

Quaker Oats Asia

Jaime Licauco's complaint about the contaminated box of toasted oatmeal honey (April 28, this column) was forwarded to Maria Paz C. Atienza, PR consultant of Quaker Oats Asia. This is her message to the PDI "Inner Mind" columnist:

"My client would like to know if it is still possible to retrieve the actual box of the product for possible testing by Quaker's R&D office. Quaker as a brand, has always stood for product quality and safety in manufacturing in all its more than 100 years of existence. Such an isolated case to us is a real cause for alarm since this involves our consumer's safety. We are awaiting our mother office's response and will issue a statement very soon."

Unfortunately, Licauco did the inevitable. He threw the box of oatmeal where it belonged—to the thrash can.

Minimum buys with credit card

We wonder if credit card companies approve of the practice of a growing number of establishments setting a minimum amount of purchases before consumers could get them on credit. Liza S. of lizasulay@yahoo.com wrote:

"The fish store and hardware section in Robinsons allowed me to buy less than P100 when I said I would report them to the Citiphone officer at Citibank. Some weeks ago, I observed that a store at SM Megamall had prominent signs near the cashiers' area, saying that they would only accept credit cards for purchases not less than P100.

"My questions are: (1) Is there a law or a bank policy that sets a minimum for credit card charges? (2) If there is such a policy, why don't the banks or companies that issue credit cards inform their customers about it? (3) Where do we send complaints?"

Excessive interest

Felicito Q. Abiva wrote: "I am concerned that credit card companies charge as much as 8.5 percent a month for penalties and interest (on late payments). Business has been very bad, and thus paying interest alone can kill you! On behalf of credit card holders who are behind in their payments, maybe someone out there can reduce the penalty and interest that, although not usurious, are quite excessive.

"Isn't it a sin that banks can report billions of pesos in net income, yet they squeeze poor, slow-paying clients?"

Senior citizen complains

From 89-year-old Connie Angeles of Bayanihan Village, Cainta: "Why do we, elderly citizens, always get a raw deal from business establishments? For instance, at one branch of Mercury drugstore, the sales clerks asked me to present a doctor's prescription when I was buying a big can of Ensure. When I asked them why, they said they were just following orders.

"The other point I want to raise is the lack of consideration for senior citizens at the pay centers of Meralco and PLDT, which, incidentally, are always jam-packed with paying customers. The last time I went to these pay centers, I had to wait for my turn like all the rest, majority of them young and able-bodied. I happened to be the 60th customer waiting.

"I wish these establishments would create a special speed lane for senior citizens."

(Note: We called Mercury-Pasig and was informed that the elderly are required to present a doctor's prescription so they can avail of the 20-percent discount, a senior citizen's privilege. Mercury needs the name and license number of the prescribing doctor among other details for their record. So an old person has to pay a doctor consultation fee just to get a prescription and get a 20-percent discount? Does anyone need prescription for a can of milk? Mercury must be joking. Calling DTI and DOH.)

Send comments and complaints to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph.

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

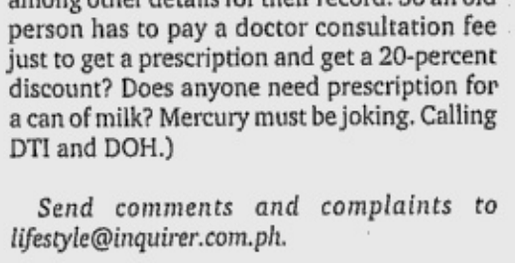
Sports madness sale

A GRAND three-day Sports Madness Sale is being held at the 8/F of Mondragon House, 324 Gen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City until today only.

On sale are arrays of Puma, New Balance, Adidas, And1 and Nike footwear, apparel and accessories like workout clothes, t-shirts, jackets, caps, colored shirts, running shorts and jogging pants, as well as basketball, tennis, running, cross-training, soccer and casual shoes.

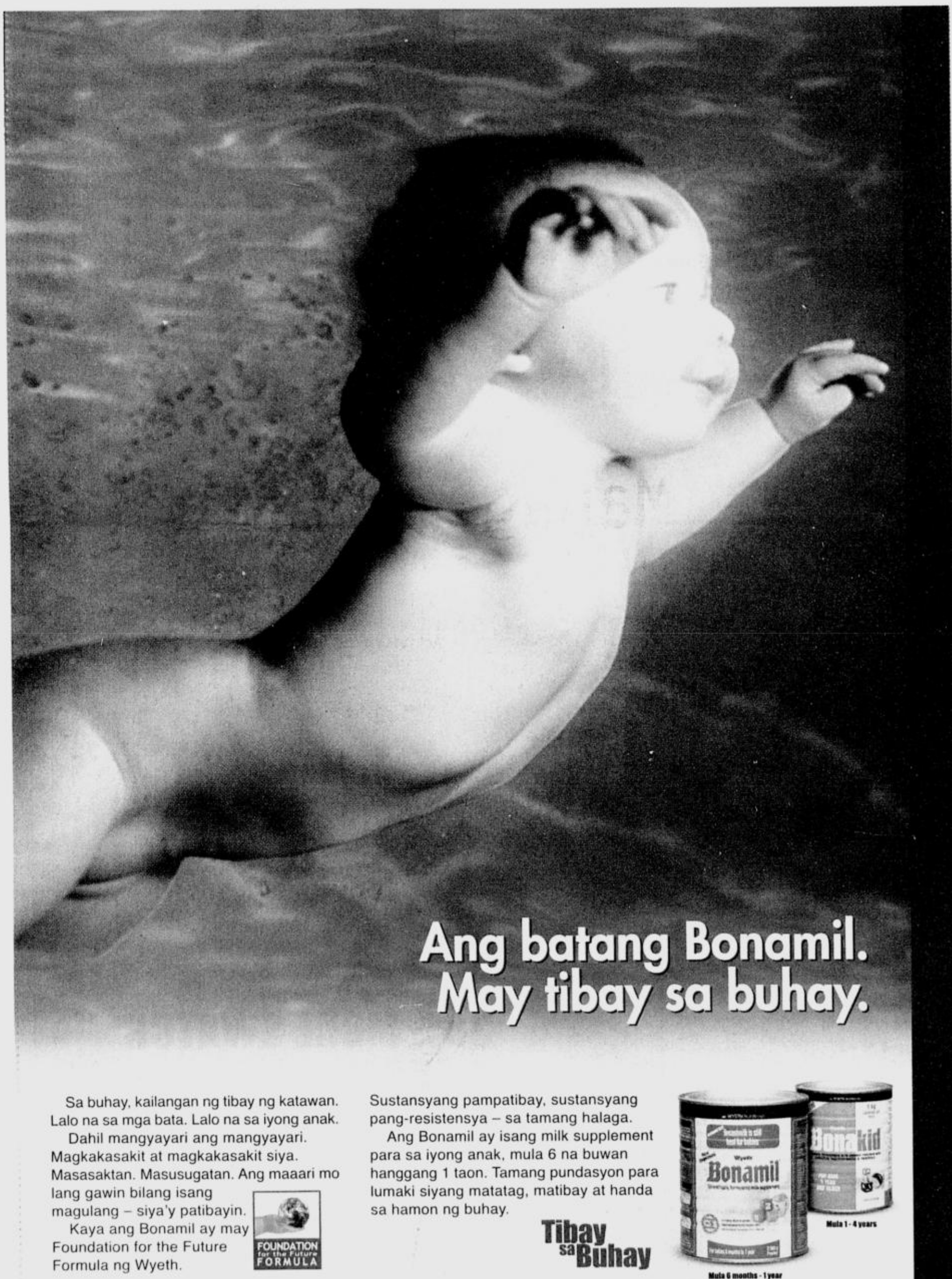
Up to 70-percent discount can be availed of on all footwear, apparel and accessories.

The sale will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



OOZE WITH CONFIDENCE

KEEP that masculine fragrance with Herrera for Father;s Delight Coffret this Father's Day. Features by Carolina Herrera New York, it contains a 100-ml Eua de Toilette and a 150-ml Shower Gel that blends with the chemistry of men. Available at all Rustan outlets and leading department stores nationwide.



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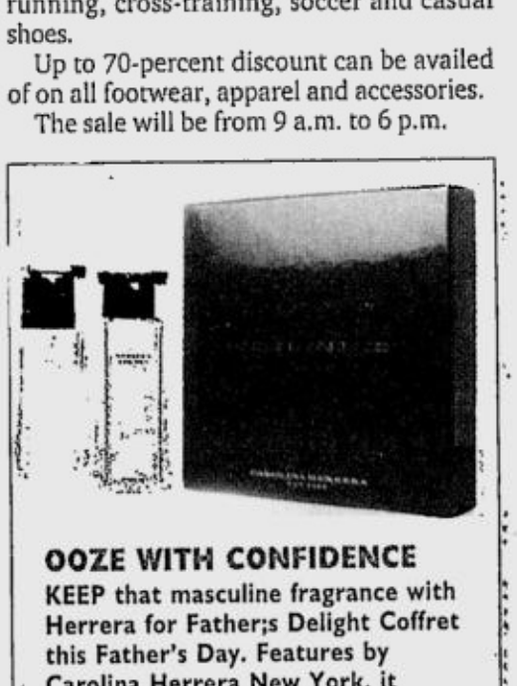
ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



The South's gamboling bag ladies

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

MICHAEL and **Joanna Lhuillier** hosted a lively party at Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort, in the area adjacent to their newly opened business venture—a bag shop.

The bags come in 50 or more different designs, handcrafted in Cebu with fine leather and combinations of denim, silk, brocade, and an infinity of fabrics and textiles. The colors are vibrant.

The J. Lhuillier logo on every bag is made of fine silver (also crafted in Cebu) and wrapped in organza, plugged into a special shopping bag of silver and blue. The bags have been selling like the proverbial hot cakes, since they are all excellently made, and have that special stamp of exclusivity. No two bags are exactly alike.

There was a ceremonial ribbon-cutting amid lots of laughter and applause, with **Angelita Lhuillier**, witty as ever, doing the honors. Assisting her were Joanna, her mother **Diane Maitland-Smith**, who came from London just for the event, and her beauteous mother-in-law **Amparito Llamaş Lhuillier**, who had just come from the USA with lots of stories.

Also present were **Michel Lhuillier**, greeted by grandchildren **Michael James**, **Matthew** and **Myles Lhuillier**; **Angie Matthieu**, who has relocated to Cebu to be with her mom Angelita; **Martin** and **Angie Miranda**; **Mikel** and **Claudine Ugarte**, who had checked in at the hotel with their children **Sebastian**, **Christian**, **Adrienne** and 3-week-old **Samuel**, who was very much at the party, too; **Vivina Yrastorza**, the first to buy a bag for *buena mano*; Shangri-La's GM **Ben Bousnina** and food and beverage director **Mark Kirk**; Msgr. **Achilles Dakay**, who officiated the blessing; and **Jerico Sungahid**, whose wines from Bacchus earned superlatives.

Who bought the most number of bags? Amparito, of course. We had counted six as of 9 p.m. when we said our farewells, and she was contemplating a seventh.

She was still in cloud 9, or 10, or 11, after spending a whole month in the US for the Bridal Market Week in New York, which was participated in by daughter **Monique Lhuillier**, who has made a name in the American fashion scene, with her bridal line and evening gowns and accessories.

Success story

Monique's success story has been told and retold in numerous journals here and abroad. Cebu is proud of her. She spent her youth here. After high school, she went to study in Switzerland, then California, where she graduated with a degree in fashion design.

She married **Tom Bugbee**, a brilliant accountant, and they ventured in business. Their success has a lot to do with hard work, perseverance and vision.

The plush Pierre Hotel in New York was the venue of Monique's show. Top buyers, magazine editors, celebrities (many of whom buy and wear Monique's creations) and dear friends attended the event.

Among their Cebuano pals who were there were the medical couple **Jose** and **Fidelis Barba** with their daughter **Gia**, who is getting married on Dec. 14 to **Don Hockstein**. Gia and Don work at Random House.

Amparito had time to visit the Barba family in their home in Saddle River, New Jersey, one of the most elegant residential communities in the US. Gia's wedding will be at the St. Gabriel Parish Church. After New York, Amparito went to Los Angeles, where Monique held a bridal salon at her shop, right next to Beverly Hills, where Tom and Monique lived.

A memorable occasion which Amparito and Monique attended in L.A. was the Vintage Fashion Show to benefit the Salvation Army's AIDS crusade. Seven top designers, Monique included, were asked to scoop out clothes from an old trunk and recycle them into usable apparel after decades of storage. Then, they were auctioned off.

Margaret O'Brien, 1940s child star of Hollywood's MGM movies, and looking very slim and pretty, presided over the auction and even modelled a fur coat that was immediately snapped up.

During the event, there was also a thrift shop with old clothes, which actually looked new for they must have been worn just once. Some volunteered to help in the sales. Amparito did, and with a certain amount of success.

Amparito, being with the Cebu City Cultural and Historical Affairs Commission and concerned about the completion of a mini theater in the old library building, is thinking of organizing a fund-raiser.

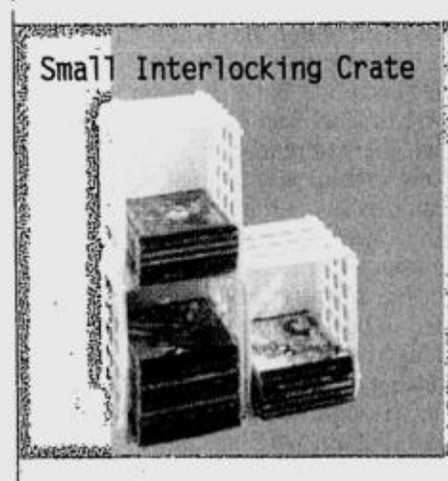
"Fashion with a Passion" seems to be the theme. And it will feature gowns by Monique, bags by Joanna, and the fabulous collection of jewelry that Amparito herself has designed, and which are retailed in all the Michel Lhuillier shops at trendy malls all over the country.

Keep posted for when that will be, book a flight to Cebu.

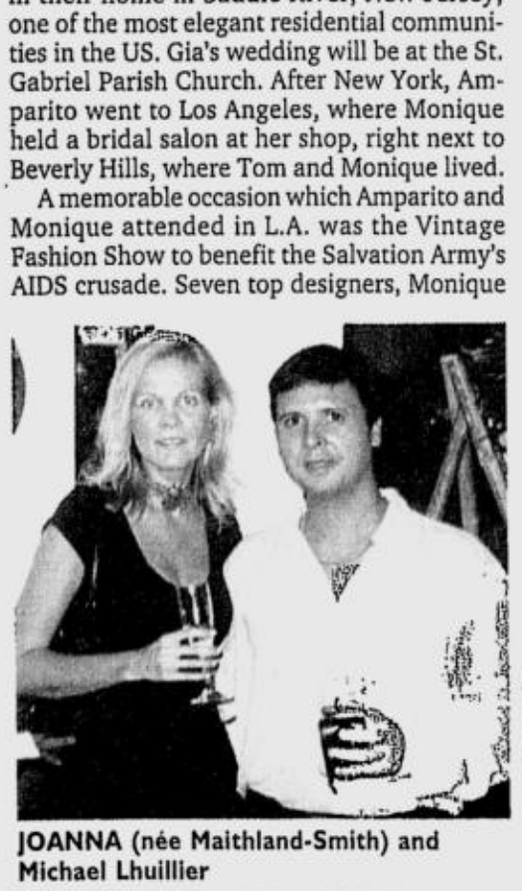
J. Lhuillier issues a bag line that has the special stamp of exclusivity

ANGIE Matthieu with her mom Angelita Lhuillier and Amparito Lhuillier

VIVINA Yrastorza, who gets the first bag, with Teresing Mendezona



JOANNA (née Maithland-Smith) and Michael Lhuillier



MONIQUE Lhuillier at her Los Angeles bridal salon

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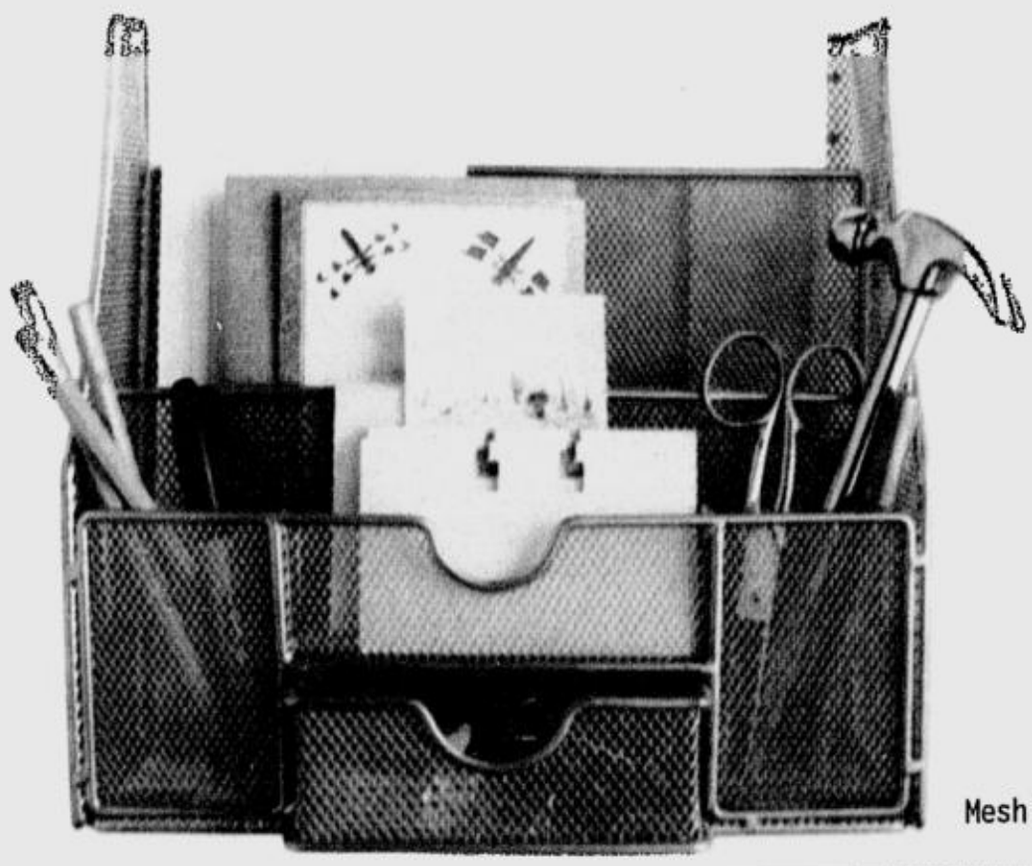

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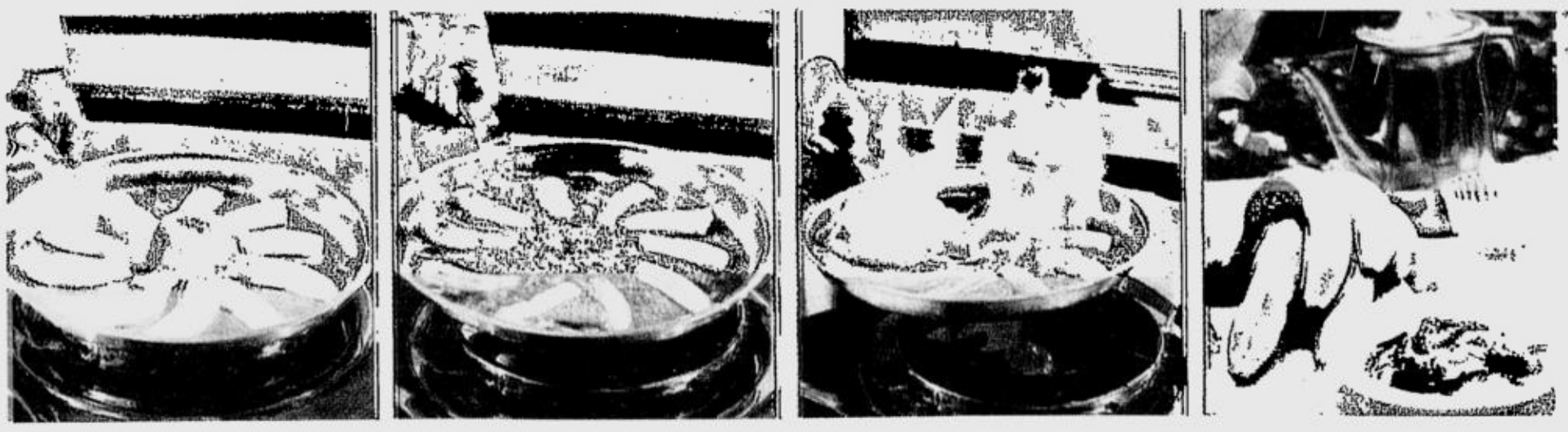


Breakfast and bananas at Brennan's

From page E1

BRENNAN'S elegant façade

Legendary

Brennan's is legendary for its breakfasts more than its history. This is perhaps the only restaurant in the world where you can partake of a three- or five-course elegant breakfast. We're not talking regular bacon and eggs here, folks, but a gastronomic feast that will linger in your memory long after you've left Brennan's.

Diners can choose from a typical New Orleans breakfast that traditionally begins with the eye-opener Brandy Milk Punch, a delicious blend of milk, nutmeg and vanilla, followed by Eggs Hussarde, one of the dishes that made breakfast at Brennan's super famous.

Eggs Hussarde is a couple of poached eggs atop Holland rusks, wrapped with Canadian bacon with Marchand de Vin sauce and topped with a rich Hollandaise sauce. The meal comes with Brennan's hot French bread and is capped by a serving of the world-famous and original Brennan's creation—Bananas Foster.

Another option, which majority of the journalists hosted by Northwest Airlines took that morning, was the three-course Prix Fixe. This breakfast choice begins with an appetizer: choice of Southern Baked Apple with Double Cream, or a variety of luscious soups—a rich Creole Onion Soup, Oyster Soup Brennan (bits of oyster cooked in a cream base with herbs and spices) or, for the more adventurous, the New Orleans Turtle Soup.

The entrée choices include Eggs Bayou Lafourche, poached eggs atop Cajun andouille sausage and Holland rusks, topped with Hollandaise sauce; Shrimp Sardou, delicious spicy fried shrimp atop sliced artichoke bottoms nestling on a bed of creamed spinach and covered with Hollandaise sauce; or the Oysters Benedict, fresh Gulf oysters fried to perfection and served over Canadian bacon with Hollandaise sauce.

It isn't unusual to top off breakfast with the scandalously delicious Bananas Foster.

Promoting bananas

The smell of Bananas Foster should be, as food critics put it, "declared illegal—or bottled and sold." Bananas Foster was created in 1951 by Chef Paul Blangé, the original executive chef at Brennan's.

"New Orleans was the major port of entry for bananas shipped from Central and South America," recalls Brennan's executive chef Mike Roussel, who has been with Brennan's for the last 25 years. "Mr. Brennan decided we needed to promote the plentiful fruit and he challenged his chef Paul Blangé to create an interesting dish."

The scrumptious dessert was named after Richard Foster, who, as chair, served with Owen on the New Orleans Crime Commission, a civic effort to clean up the French Quarter. Foster, owner of the Foster Awning Company, was a frequent customer of Brennan's and a good friend of Owen.

Little did anybody realize the dish would go on to become an international favorite appearing on menus from New Orleans to Paris. Brennan's serves 35,000 lbs of bananas in Bananas Foster annually. The dessert is the most requested item on Brennan's menu.

However, beyond its gracious service and extensive wine cellar (at 30,000 labels, the largest in the South), rich architectural history and excellent food, the secret of Brennan's success lies in the personal attention and devotion given by its owners.

As Ted Brennan said in an interview with Christy Daugherty of the New Orleans City Business newspaper, "We try to act like every day is our first day in the business."

Northwest flies to New Orleans daily via Detroit.

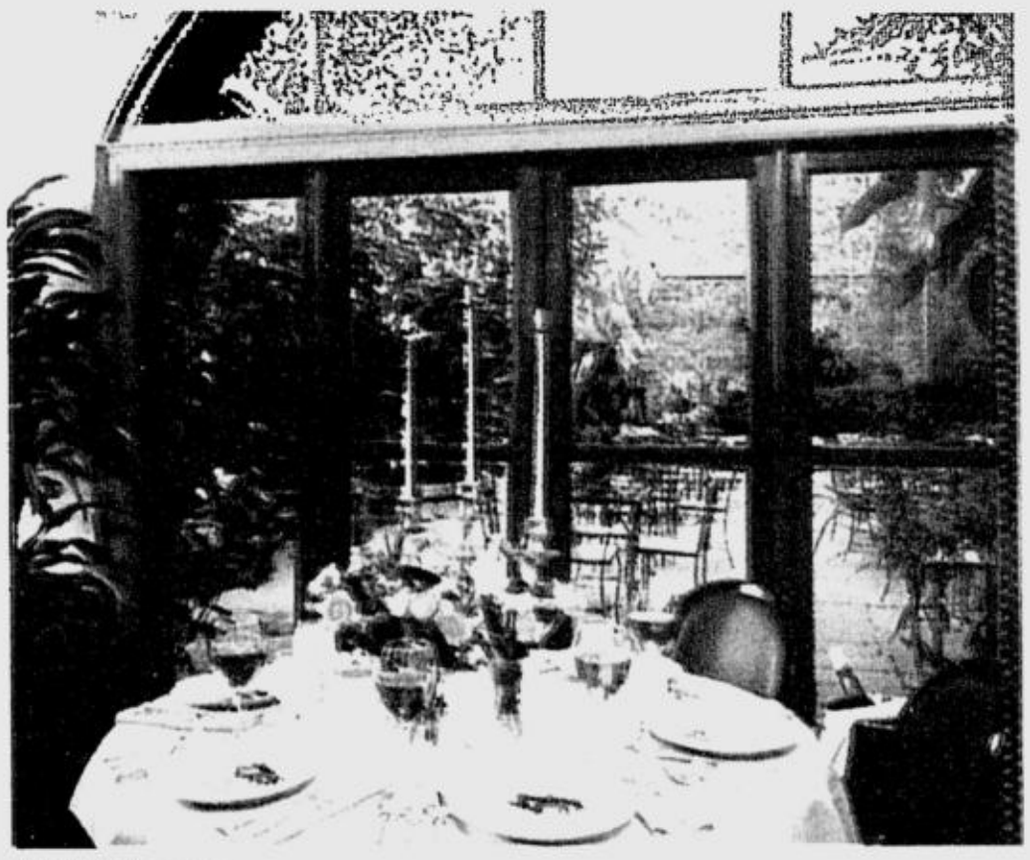
Email the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

Bananas Foster

- ¼ cup (½ stick) butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- ¼ cup banana liqueur
- 4 bananas, cut in half lengthwise, then halved
- ¼ cup dark rum
- 4 scoops vanilla ice cream

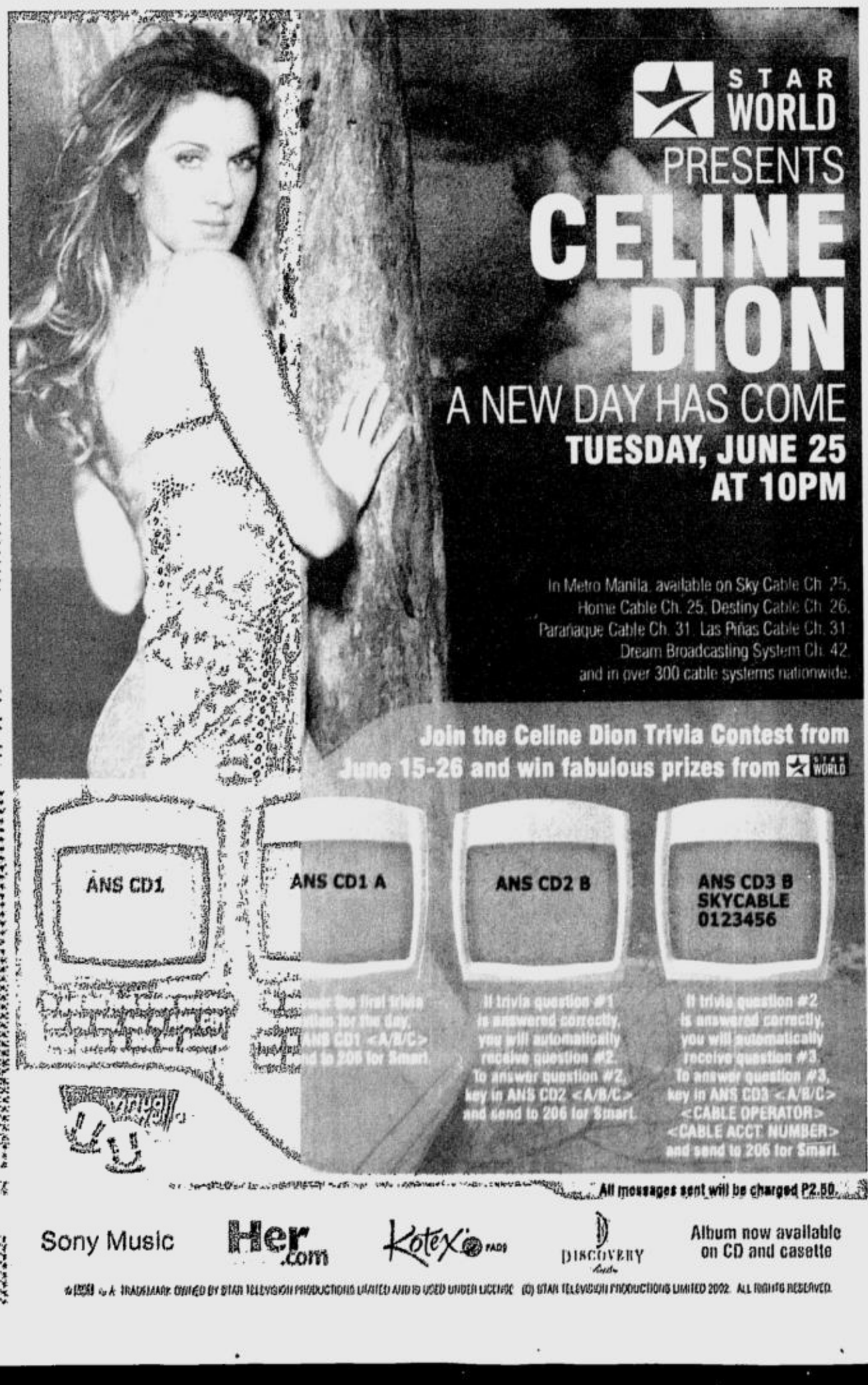
Combine the butter, sugar, and cinnamon in a flambé pan or skillet. Place the pan over low heat either on an alcohol burner or on top of the stove, and cook, stirring, until the sugar dissolves. Stir in the banana liqueur, then place the bananas in the pan. When the banana sections soften and begin to brown, carefully add the rum. Continue to cook the sauce until the rum is hot, then tip the pan slightly to ignite the rum. When the flames subside, lift the bananas out of the pan and place four pieces over each portion of ice cream. Generously spoon warm sauce over the top of the ice cream and serve immediately.

You haven't been to New Orleans if you haven't dined at this restaurant made famous by a humble fruit

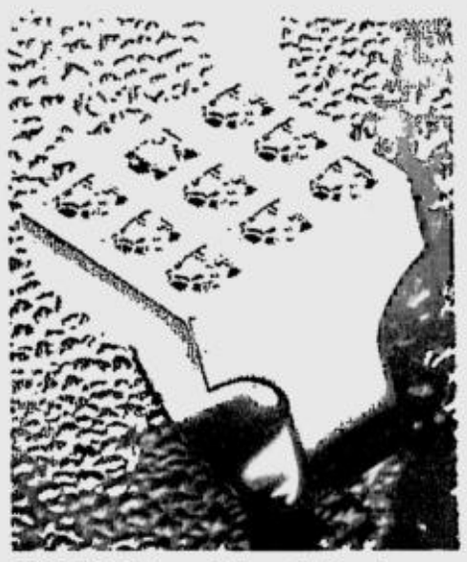


MAIN dining room

PREPARING a house favorite—Crêpes Fitzgerald



EGGS Hussarde put Breakfast at Brennan's on the map.



SWATCH bijoux Prismatic Precious ring

TROY and Kris gets tangled up in Swatch Skin Meshtream.

Time to shine

IT takes a lot of heart to be passionate about some things. There has to be belief, conviction and some form of intimacy involved. Recently, Swatch discovered two individuals who can bring to life the latest from the Swatch bijoux collection.

The style, pizzazz and unique vision of Kris Aquino is a perfect match to the freedom that is Swatch—the freedom of fashion, the freedom of style, the freedom of play and the freedom of simply being Kris. This one-of-a-kind combination has created a stir in the latest trends. A perfect blend of fine jewelry worn in an unconventional way against porcelain skin was a casting coup like no other.

Ever delightful and ever changing is the look and feel of Swatch bijoux. It's an exquisite collection focused on crystals, metals, color, resin and silicon, with each piece capable of making a grand entrance of its own. And if you want a feature performance, go ahead and mix and match from the generous selection as how Kris prefers to wear hers.

Playful and joyful with its fresh contemporary edge, on the other hand, is the look of Swatch hunk Troy Montero in Swatch bijoux. Only someone who believes in the brand and is passionate about it will take this big step from the Swatch watch collection to its line of jewelry. If dressing your body calls for a dramatic touch or the look of an innocent ingenue, Swatch bijoux will definitely make that captivating statement—especially with a body like Troy.

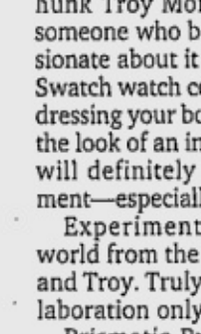
Experiment, explore and discover the world from the latest Swatch bijoux with Kris and Troy. Truly, nothing equals this latest collaboration only from Swatch.

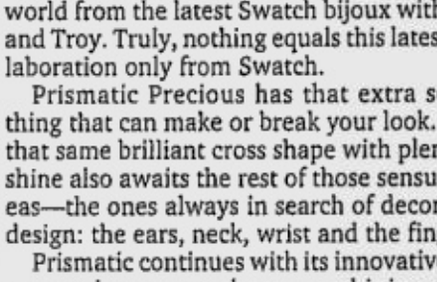
Prismatic Precious has that extra something that can make or break your look. Now that same brilliant cross shape with plenty of shine also awaits the rest of those sensual areas—the ones always in search of decorative design: the ears, neck, wrist and the fingers.

Prismatic continues with its innovative and very unique cross shape, combining silver chains, stainless steel, and colored silicon. The popular necessities with imaginative flair now include something for him or her.

Flashwave Precious shines strong when the ears, neck, wrist and fingers are wrapped in a sensuous metal curve adorned with crystals. The result is an irresistible contemporary look.

Should you decide to play a secretary, model/actress, athlete, typist, chef, conductor, file clerk, chauffeur, waitress, designer, horse trainer, gardener, housekeeper, or girl-around-town—your entrance will be memorable with the 2002 Collection of Swatch bijoux. Just look at Kris and Troy and know that this is for real.





SWATCH bijoux Flashwave Precious ring and set of earrings

Swatch bijoux is available at the Swatch Store Glorietta, Megamall, Rockwell and the Podium. Swatch bijoux is exclusively distributed by Gift Gate, Inc.

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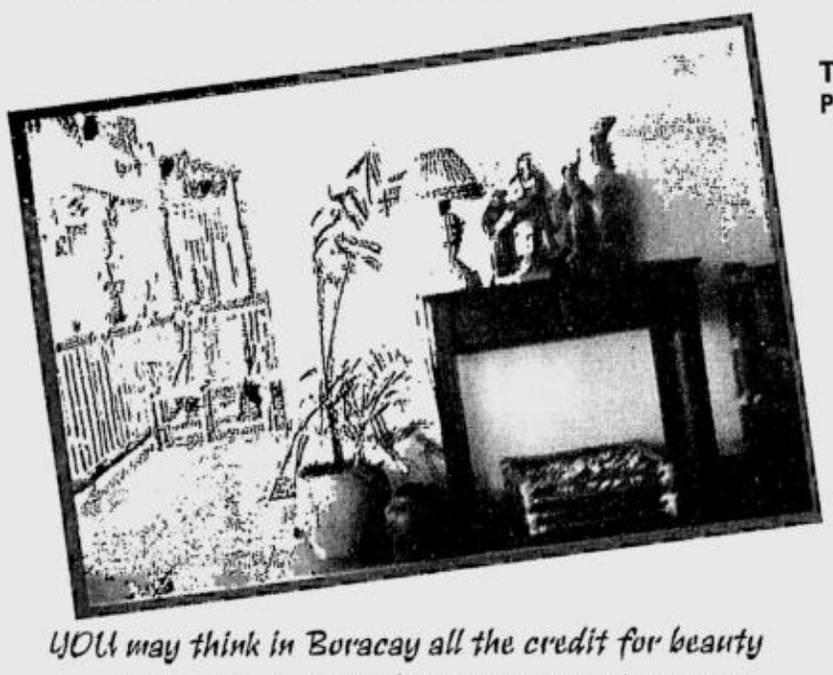
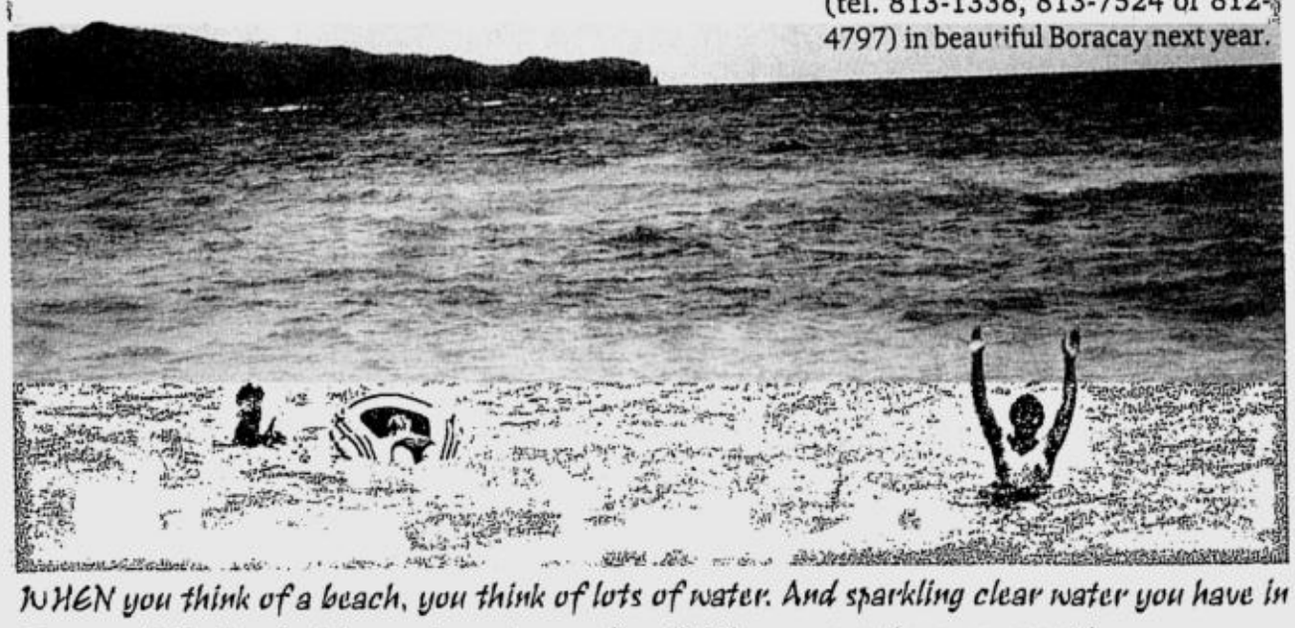
WHEN you step out of the Sun Village, the beach is right there. It is relaxing to sit outside on one of the bamboo beach chairs. You're guaranteed to fall asleep, thanks to the cool, gentle breeze.

THE BEACH is perfect for little kids to play on. We made dozens and dozens of sandcastles on the beach and so can you! But that's not all what the Bora beach is about.

Boracay:
Last hurrah under the sun



YOU may think in Boracay all the credit for beauty goes to the beach, but no! The resorts and cottages have their own share. We stayed in the Sun Village, a rustic seaside inn and restaurant.



WHEN you think of a beach, you think of lots of water. And sparkling clear water you have in Boracay! That's why it's a swimmer's paradise. While we were there we spent hours swimming and just enjoying the water. It never ever got crowded. We even went out in a small raft and just relaxed.

Text by Kevin Go
Photos by Chelo Banal-Formoso

BORACAY is a nice sunny beach where locals, tourists and just about anyone can kick back, relax and enjoy. The Boracay beach has quite a few things going for it compared to the other beaches I have been to. First of all, there's the white sand. I have been to a few other beaches in our country and all the sand is brown, gray or even black. Also, the sand in other beaches is quite grainy. Not in Boracay, though. There you have white, powdery sand that feels nice to walk and romp on.

We had so much fun in Boracay we almost couldn't leave. But on Sunday morning, we took the boat to Caticlan, rode a van to Kalibo and took the plane to Manila. It seemed such a looong way back home. But it's okay—we are starting a family fund so we can go back to the Sun Village (tel. 813-1338, 813-7524 or 812-4797) in beautiful Boracay next year.

THE SUN Village restaurant serves food all day. Their fried chicken is yummy. Their leche flan melts in your mouth. One time they served sweetened bananas and another time they gave us sweet potatoes. But for me, the best buy at the Sun Village is its iced tea shake. I kept drinking it and couldn't get enough of it.

AFTER A LONG day of swimming, you may think the fun of the day has ended, but you're wrong. You can go to *talipapa*, a bazaar where you can buy all kinds of things—from lamps to key chains to food. It's like a giant souvenir shop. My cousin, my sister and I even got tattoos. Don't worry, the tattoos are made of some kind of black paint that washes off in a week.

IF you don't feel like swimming, you can just sit by the sea and read a book. My cousins and I even got a massage from the local women who kept coming by to entice us. So did my mom and my aunts and uncle.

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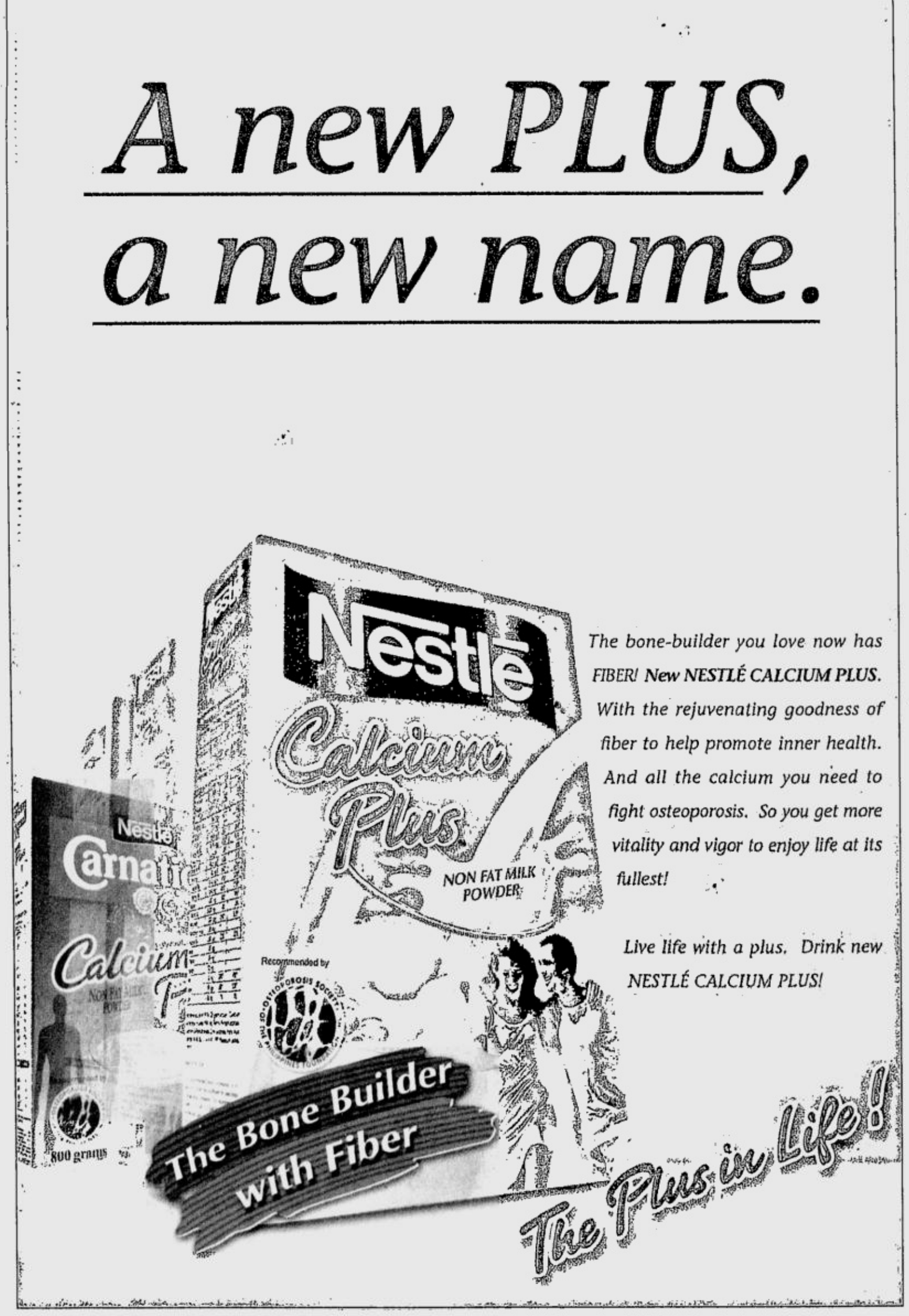
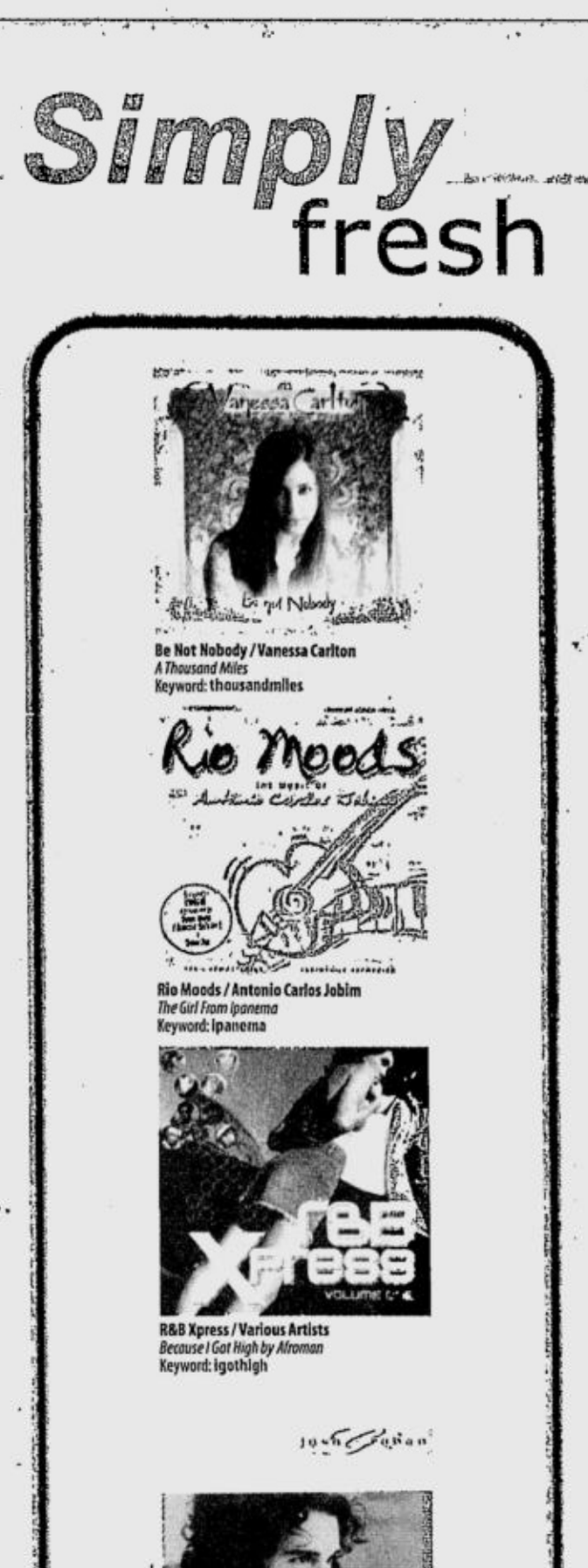
Sunday LIFESTYLE

A home that's a dream come true

You need not worry about the people in your neighborhood at this new development because it's surrounded by Forbes Park, Manila Polo Club and Manila Golf and Country Club

STORY ON PAGE F2





THE CURTAIN swag and gathered pleats lend a dramatic touch to the bedroom window overlooking the Manila Golf and Country Club. The wenge-finished bed frame and side tables are a pleasing departure from the flesh-colored theme. A pair of antique gold table lamps provides indirect lighting while halogen pin lights direct one's attention to accent pieces.

ANTIQUE gold table lamps and Chinese-inspired decorative boxes give the living area a lived-in look. Providing contrast to the light hues are the console and center tables and contemporary accent chairs done in wenge finish.

A home that's a dream come true

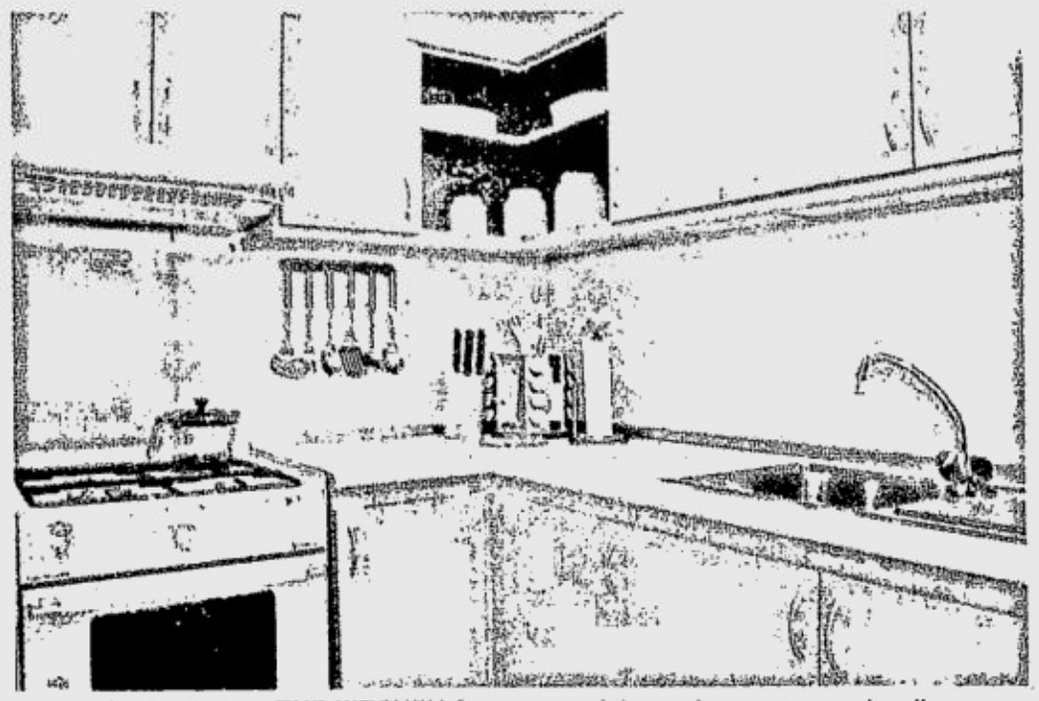
FOR MANY people looking for a place to call home, Forbeswood Heights (tel. 867-8868/8888) is a dream come true.

The residential enclave at the world-class Bonifacio Global City has the Manila Golf and Country Club, Forbes Park and Manila Polo Club as neighbors. Windows of the village's houses overlook a panorama of green that stretches almost endlessly.

Forbeswood Heights offers a mix of executive studio and one-bedroom residences ranging in size from 36.5 to 59 square meters. A model unit of the efficiently designed luxury homes is on display at the Megaworld Showroom, The World Center in Makati.

For all its accessibility to the metro's key destinations, Forbeswood Heights has a condominium resort feel created by a luxuriant garden and the various amenities it provides, including a free-form lap pool with in-water lounge, children's wading pool, sunbathing lounge, tennis court, putting green, children's playground, bird bath and flower gardens.

Forbeswood Heights is nestled in a P15-billion, five-hectare residential and commercial development called Forbes Town Center near the Crescent West Park district at Bonifacio Global City. It is a first-ever venture in the Global City by Megaworld Corp. and Bonifacio West Development Corp., a consortium led by the Rufino-Dupasquier group.



THE KITCHEN features modular under counter and wall cabinets, all done in natural wood finish.

FORBESWOOD Heights: Transforming everyday urban living into an art.

THE LIVING area employs a light, off-brown color motif seen in the high-back fabric-covered sofa and the swirl-designed area rug.

A EUROPEAN chandelier made of steel and cracked glass blends well with the dining set made of wood in dark finish that contrasts with the beige-colored chair fabric. A decorative mirror on one side of the dining area extends the sense of space.

ONE of the perks that await Forbeswood condo owners are spectacular views that bring to their living rooms the splendor of the Manila Golf and Country Club.

For sweet-toothed dads, these women have a perfect gift

Text by Belle Bondoc
Photos by Betoy Johnson

PARTNERS Jinky Tobiano and Kim Limchua

Although it is unique and handmade, a regular candy arrangement is not that expensive, with a bouquet selling for as low as P150

BIRTHDAY bouquet

WHEN best friends Jinky Tobiano and Kim Limchua first discovered it through the Internet Candy Bouquet International, which had the fastest-growing franchises, they didn't think twice about joining the queue of would-be franchisees.

They thought it was a good move, since they did not have the money for a large-scale investment. The business already had an established name and it was a successful operation.

They knew from the start there were a lot of factors to consider, like royalties and quotas, but the young women were determined to start their own business. Besides, they loved the idea of a home-based enterprise, being their own bosses and having fun while making money.

Both seemed suited for the business. Kim had a background in interior design, while Jinky was a business management graduate, both from the University of Santo Tomas.

The friends ended up in Arkansas, USA, for a two-week training on "candy bouquet" management. They were taught the secrets of creating beautiful floral-type arrangements using the finest candies and accessories available.

The Candy Bouquet International provides comprehensive hands-on training to franchise owners, including financial management, marketing, competition and buying contracts.

After the training, the friends started their own Candy Bouquet Store, with Kim's fiancé as a part-time business partner.

"It's really a trial-and-error thing for us. We were not thinking merely of profit. What we really want is for our product to be recognized by our target market," says Jinky.

The business has been operating for almost a year now. The women formally opened a full-scale chocolate and candy retail store at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell last December.

"We also sell candies separately, chocolates and balloons as well," adds Jinky.

Now that the store is fully operational, Jinky and Kim have their hands full. Jinky handles the planning and marketing aspects of the business, while Kim takes charge of the creation of candy bouquets.

"I definitely enjoy custom-making the bouquets. Filling special orders is really something to me," says Kim.

Alternative to flowers

Although it is different, a regular candy arrangement is not that expensive. Kim and Jinky can work within a customer's budget. The Candy Bouquet offers arrangements for as low as P150 and each bouquet is unique and handmade.

"It's a good alternative to flowers. Making candy bouquets is like making flower arrangements, but this is more *matrabaho* because of color combinations. It usually takes us an hour to finish a single arrangement," stresses Kim.

A regular arrangement consists of imported candies, chocolates, gums and other goodies, plus accessories which include locally made reusable containers, imported wrappers that correspond to different flavors, cellophane bags, lollipop sticks, and bottles with unique designs.

The store also has sugar-free candies especially made for diabetics, health-conscious individuals, or those just counting calories.

And since 50-percent of the target market of Candy Bouquet are kids, it has come up with special kiddie-party packages. The store carries several general designs of candy bouquets with special themes for parties.

"One of the best things about these candy bouquets, *hindi nalalanta, matībay at hindi langgamin*. A candy bouquet can last for three years," Kim adds.

Each bouquet is custom-made. Customers can choose the items to be included. But already on display are arrangements on wine bottles and Oriental arrangements, said to be the hottest items on the list. Sales depend on the season. Certain arrangements are for specific occasions.

"On peak seasons like Valentine's Day and Christmas Day, orders just overflow," says Jinky.

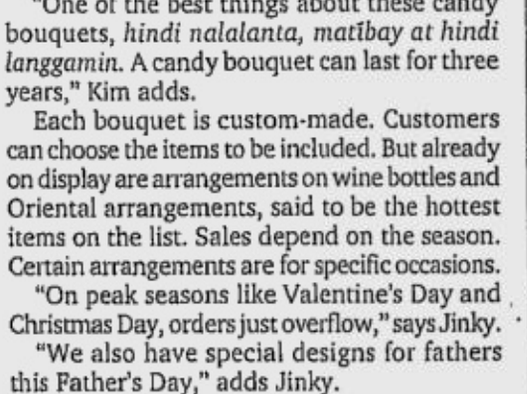
"We also have special designs for fathers this Father's Day," adds Jinky.

Candy Bouquet is planning to open a new outlet in Glorietta this August, and eventually in Shangri-La Mall. After one year and with the planned expansion, it is certainly beginning to enjoy the sweet smell, rather, taste, of success.

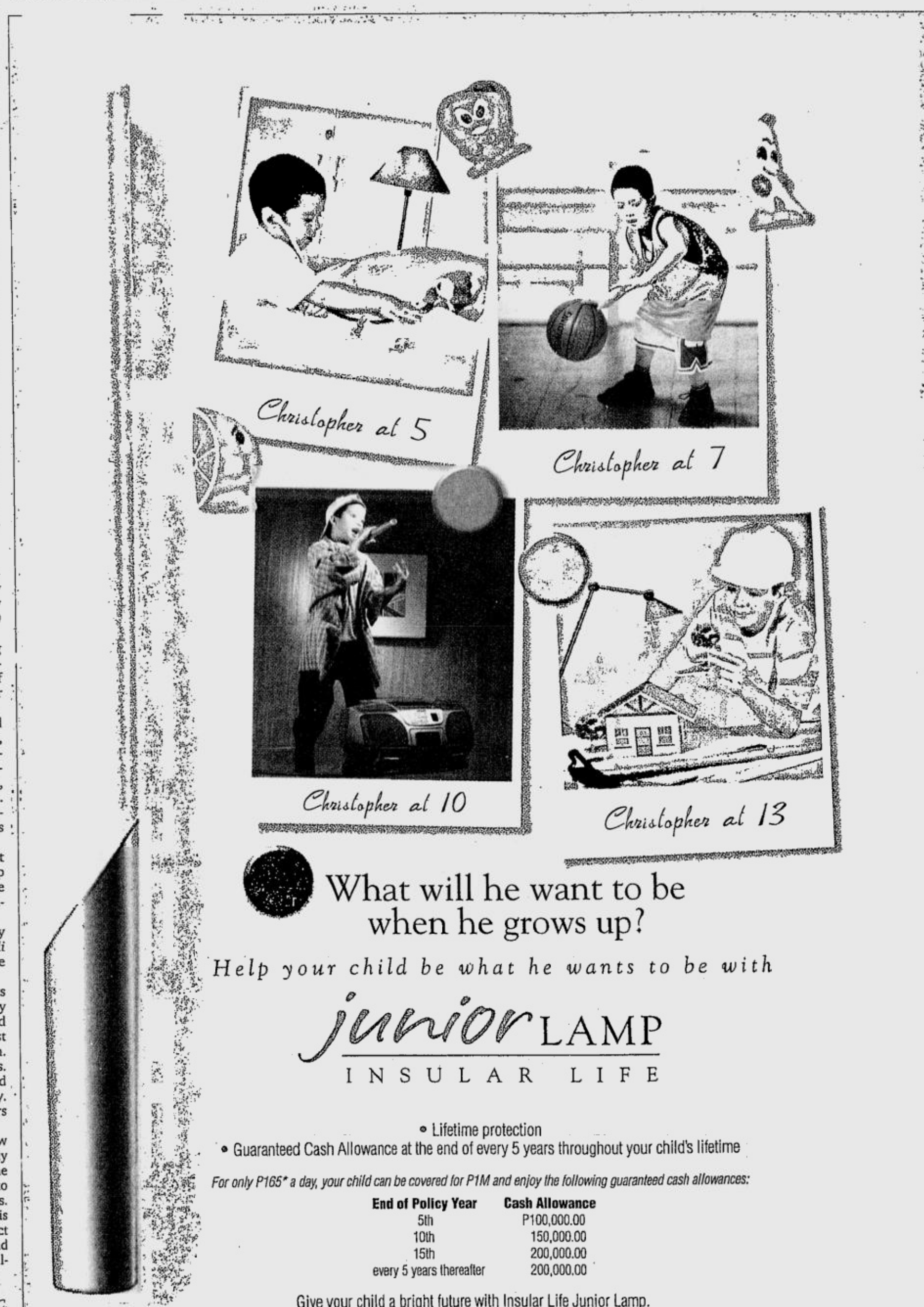
But any successful franchise relationship is anchored on a strong partnership, a perfect combination of talents and expertise. Kim and Jinky have that, plus so much more—a willingness to try new things and faith in God.

Candy Bouquet's Manila office is at 21 C. Benitez St., Cubao, Quezon City (tel. 724-1835 or 373-4051), and at Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City.

E-mail the author at rbapril_25@yahoo.com



BOUQUET made of cookies



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Lucia East Grand Mall, Cainta, Rizal **CCO** G/F VA Rufino Bldg., 6784 Ayala Ave. Makati City **SMART Tower TC** G/F SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Avenue, Makati City **Telecom Lane** Blitz 3/Level Glorietta 2, Glorietta, Makati City (formerly Fashion Café) **NORTHWEST LUZON: REGIONAL OFFICE** 2/F Banco de Oro Bldg., Session Road., Baguio City **REGIONAL SALES OFFICE AREA - NORTH LUZON: BAGUIO** Banco de Oro Bldg., Upper Session Road., Baguio City **DAGUPAN** G/F Insular Life Bldg., Dagupan City **LAOAG** G/F Jonsons Place, Rizal cor., Guererro Sts., Laoag City **SF LA UNION** CKC Arcade, Quezon Ave., San Fernando La Union **ARDENT** Satellite Branch, Alexander St., Urdaneta City **VIGAN** Satellite Branch, 2/F Landmark Bldg., Jose Singson St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur **CENTRAL LUZON: ANGELES** G/F Sonny Lao Bldg., 888 Jake Gonzales Blvd. Angeles City **SM PAMPANGA** Satellite Branch, Stall 151, SM City Pampanga Mexico Olongapo Gapan Rd., San Fernando **BALIUAG** Satellite Branch, 602 G/F De Leon Bldg., Cagayan Valley Road.Poblacion Baliuag Bulacán **BALANGA** Satellite Branch, 2/F RBPI Bldg., Rizal St., Balanga, Bataan **MALOLOS** G/F Kilometer 40, FC Integrated Resource Bldg., Mc Arthur Sumapang Matanda, Malolos Bulacan **OLONGAPO** G/F Ocampo Bldg., 960 Rizal Ave., East Tapinac, Olongapo **TARLAC** #1030 AL'S Bldg., Annex, Mc Arthur San Nicolas, Tarlac **NORTHEAST LUZON** 15/F, SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Avenue, Salcedo Village, Makati **SOUTH LUZON** 14/F, SMART Tower 6799 Ayala Avenue, Salcedo Village, Makati City **CALAMBA** G/F, Anderson Bldg., 2Parian Calamba, Laguna **BATANGAS** G/F, Insular Bldg., Hilltop, Batangas City **PALAWAN** Door 1 Balsa Bldg., Nat'l Hi-way, San Pedro PPC **LEGAZPI** G/F Dy-Yanzon Bldg., Lapu-Lapu St. Legazpi City **NAGA** 41 Panganiban Drive cor. Isarog St., Naga City **SAN PABLO** M.Basa St. cor. P. Burgos St. San Pablo City **IMUS** 4th Level Robinsons Place, Imus Cavite **LUCENA** 173 Granja St., Lucena City **NORTHEAST** Almazan Bldg.,National Hi-way cor. Luna St., Santiago, Isabela**APARRI** 2/F Antonio Lim Bldg., Rizal Cor. Alvarado Maura Aparri, Cagayan **BAYOMBONG** G/F, Garingan Bldg., National Hi-way, Bayombong Nueva Vizcaya **CABANATUAN** Door 2 Sta. Rina Bldg., Maharlika Hi-way Cabanatuan **ILAGAN** 129 Rizal St., G/F Zara Bldg., Centro Ilagan, Isabela **SANTIAGO** Almazan Bldg., National hi-way Cor. Luna St., Santiago, Isabela **TUGUEGARAO** 2/F, Twinluck Bldg., Luna St., Tuguegarao, Cagayan **TELECOMMUNICATIONS DISTRIBUTORS SPECIALISTS, INC.VISAYAS: CEBU** 3rd flr. SM City North Reclamation Area SM City, Cebu City **DUMAGUETE** Dona Milagros Bldg., Sta Rosa St., Dumaguete **TACLOBAN** Smart Wireless Center Eyes Referral Bldg, Justice Romualdez St Tacloban **ORMOC** Sixto Pongos Bldg. Aviles St. Ormoc City **WESTERN VISAYAS: ILOILO** Unit 57, 65 & 66 Lower Ground Benigno Aquino Drive SM City **KALIBO** Smart Telecenter Archbishop Reyes St Kalibo Aklan **ROXAS** Ground Flr. Gaisano City Arnaldo Boulevard **BACOLOD** 2nd Flr. Robinsons Mandalagan Bacolod **PALAWAN** Taisa Bldg. National Highway Brgy. San Pedro Puerto Princesa Palawan **MINDANAO: CAGAYAN DE ORO** Entrance 2, Limketkai Center, Cagayan De Oro City **BUTUAN** G/F Ramcor Bldg., P. Burgos St., Butuan City **DIPOLOG** Echavez Cor. Osmeña Sts., Dipolog City **ILIGAN** 4th Door Garcia Bldg., Quezon Ave. Ext.,Iligan City **OZAMIS** G/F Insular Life Bldg..Don Anselmo Bernad Ave., Ozamis City **PAGADIAN** G/F Edificio Del Rey Bldg., Cor. Bonifacio Jamisola Sts., Pagadian **SURIGAO** G/F Guerra Bldg., Rizal Cor. Vasquez Sts., Surigao City **VALENCIA** 2F Tamay Lang Bldg., G. Lavinia Ave. Cor. M.L. Quezon St., Valencia Bukidnon **COTABATO** G/F Landbank Bldg., Don Rufino Alonzo St, Cotabato City **DAVAO** G/F Dasi Bldg., J. P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City **GENSAN** R.D. Bldg., Santiago Blvd. Gen. Santos City **TAWI-TAWI** Bing-ing Ho Bldg., Datu Halun St., Bongao, Tawi-tawi **ZAMBOANGA** G/F 149 Fidela Bldg., Gov. Alvarez St. Zamboanga City **LIST OF MAJOR DEALERS: SEMICON Bagulo** - Naguilian Branch J/F Rainbow Bldg., #115 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City **Bagulo - Cooyeesan Mall** Ground Level, Cooyeesan Plaza Mall Naguilian Road, Baguio City **Cebu City** 2/F SM Cyberzone **Davao City-Recto** 5M Drug Bldg., C.M Recto Avenue **Davao City-Gaisano Mall** 3 Flr. J.P. Laurel Avenue Gaisano Mall **Cagayan De Oro City** Cinema 3 Complex Limketkai Center **Jenra Mall-Pampanga** Gr.Level, Sto. Rosario St., Angeles City **SM Iloilo City** Lower Gr. Level, Iloilo City **SM San Fernando-Pampanga** 2nd Level, SM San Fernando Bgy. Sn. Jose, Sn. Fernando **Head Office Showroom** Marcos Highway, Pasig City **SM Megamall** 5th Level , Bldg. B (Supermarket side) **SM Centerpoint** 337 3rd Flr. SM Centerpoint Sta. Mesa, Manila **SM City-North Edsa** G/F Car Park Plaza, SM City North Edsa QC **SM Southmall** 2/F SM Cyberzone **SM City-Manila** Level 4, SM City Manila Concepcion St., cor. Arroceros & San Marcelino Sts., Manila **Festival Mall-Alabang** 4th Level, Festival Supermall Filinvest Alabang, MM **SM Fairview** 2nd Level, SM Fairview (near cinema) Quirino Hi-way cor. Regalado Sts **SEMICON** Rockwell Powerplant Mall **SEMICON** SM Davao **WINTELECOM: Quickcom: SM City Iloilo** (soon to open) 2005 2nd Level, SM City Iloilo, San. Benigno Ave., Mandurriao, Iloilo City **SM City North EDSA** (soon to open) CPP138, Cyberzone SM City North EDSA, Quezon City **SM City Cebu** C279 2nd Level, SM City Cebu North Reclamation Area, Mabolo, Cebu City **SM Southmall** 2068 2nd Level SM Southmall Las Piñas City **Fiesta World Mall** B25-B Bldg. B 2nd Level, Fiesta World Mall, Maraouy, Lipa City **ComWorks/Telemartcom/Megacelltular: ComWorks Head Office** G/F Verde oro Building 535 Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City **MAKATI** 4077 Camalig Street 4078 Palanan, Makati City **LIPA** Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City **CALAMBA** Stall #6, Sta. Cecilia, Business Center 1 Parian, Calamba, Laguna **BINONDO** Regina Garden II Building Reina Regente St., Binondo, Manila **COMMONWEALTH** 535 Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City **ERICSSON SHOP-LIPA** Fiesta World Mall Maraouy, Lipa City **FIESTA-B** Fiesta World Mall Maraouy, Lipa City **LIPA TELECENTER** C. M. Recto Avenue, Lipa City **SAN FERNANDO TELECENTER** San Agustin, San Fernando, Pampanga **TAGAYTAY TELECENTER** E. Aguinaldo Hi-Way, Tagaytay City **COMWORKS LEGASPI** Rizal Street, Legaspi City **Telemartcom HEAD OFFICE** Telemartcom C. Ramirez Street, # 121 Quezon Ave. cor. Araneta Ave., Quezon City **POWER TELECOM QUEZON AVE. TELECENTER** SM Manila Branch **ACKERS: ADI TELECOMS: SM Fairview** 2/F SM City Fairview, Quezon City **Shangri-La Crossings** G/F Shangri-la Mall, EDSA cor. Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City **Parksquare 1** G/F Parksquare 1, Makati City **Rustan's-Cubao** 2/F Telecoms Arcade Rustan's, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City **Farmer's Plaza-Cubao** 3/F Farmers Plaza, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City **SM Southmall** 2/F SM Southmall, Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Pinas City **SM North EDSA** 159 B Carpark Plaza, SM City North EDSA, Quezon City **SM Bacoor** 3/F SM City, Bacoor, Cavite **Pavilion Mall** G/F Pavilion Mall, Biñan, Laguna **Fiesta Mall-Lipa** 2/F Fiesta Mall, Lipa City, Batangas **SM Pampanga** 3/F SM City San Fernando Pampanga **Jenra Mall-Pampanga** G/F Jenra Mall, Angeles City, Pampanga **Metro Town Mall 1-Tarlac** Basement Metro Town Mall, McArthur Hi-way, Tarlac City **Metro Town Mall 2-Tarlac** 3/F Metro Town Mall, McArthur Hi-way, Tarlac City **Session Rd-Baguio** 28 Upper Session Rd., Baguio City **Cooyeesan Mall-Baguio** G/F Cooyeesan Mall, Baguio City **INCA Bldg. - Naga** G/F INCA Bldg., Naga City **SM Cebu** 2/F SM City Reclamation Area, Cebu City **JS Gaisano-Davao** 5/F E. World JS Citimall, Ilustre St., Davao City **SM Davao** 314 SM City Davao, Quimpo Blvd., cor. Tulip Drive Ave., Eco West Drive, Brgy. Matina, Davao City **Session Marketing** 35 Session Rd., Baguio City **BCM 1** G/F Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City **BCM 2** 2/F Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City **BCM 3** 3/F Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City **Mactan** Pajo, Lapu Lapu City **White Gold** North Reclamation Area, Cebu Prince Alang-Alang, Mandaue City **Super Metro** Estancia Ibabao, Mandaue City **Country Mall** Bantad St., Cebu City **Colonnade** Colon St., Cebu City **Gaisano Main** Colon St., Cebu City **Southmall** cor. Colon-Leon Kilat Sts., Cebu **Tabunok** Tabunok, Talisay, Cebu City **Lianas** Lianas Discount City Parian, Calamba, Laguna **Walter Mart Calamba** Real St., Brgy. Real, Calamba, Laguna **Walter Mart Sta. Rosa** San Lorenzo cor. Balibago Rd., Brgy. Balibago, Sta. Rosa, Laguna **Walter Mart Sta. Rosa Exhibit** Extreme Exhibit, Waltermart Sta. Rosa, Balibago, Sta. Rosa, Laguna **Fiesta Mall 1-Lipa** G/F Bldg. A, Fiesta World Mall, Brgy. Maraouy, Lipa City, Batangas **ADI Big Ben** 2/F Big Ben Complex, J.P. Laurel Highway, Lipa City, Batangas **Savers Mall Booth** G/F Savers Mall, McArthur Hi-way, Balibago, Angeles City, Pampanga **Savers Mall Shoppe** 3/F Savers Mall, McArthur Hi-way, Balibago, Angeles City, Pampanga **Cash & Carry** Makati Filmore St., cor. Buendia, Makati City **Waltermart Makati** 790 Pasong Tamo, Makati City **Pioneer Center** 8006 Pioneer St., cor. United & Brixton Sts., Pasig City **Waltermart Dasmariñas** 30 Aguinaldo Hi-way, Bo. Burol, Dasmariñas, Cavite **Cherry Foodarama** Congressional Ave., cor. Pangilinan Brgy. Bahay Toro, Quezon City **Shangri-la** EDSA cor. Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City **Robertson** Diversion Rd., Naga City **LCC Mall** Felix Plazo St., Sabang, Naga City **LCC Gate** Felix Plazo St., Sabang, Naga City **Legazpi Retail** 8 Jose Lee Bldg., Legazpi City **LCC Express Mart** Penaranda St., Legazpi City **LCC Tabaco** Ziga St., Tabaco, Albay **Quick Mart** Quickmart Bldg., Rizal St., Daraga, Albay **LCC Legazpi** G/F LCC, Penaranda St., Legazpi City **Pacific Mall** Lanco Business Park, F. Imperial St., cor. Circumferencial Rd., Legazpi City **FIRST TELECOM: EPHONE: Main Office** Crisanta Tower, Pasig **TELECOM CONCEPTS: Alfaro** Alfaro St., Salcedo Village, Makati **TCA/E-PHONE: Festival Mall** 3/F Festival Supermall, Filinvest Corporate City, Zapote Rd., Alabang, Muntinlupa City **Shangri-la** 6/F Shangri-la Plaza EDSA Mandaluyong City **Sta. Lucia** 3/F Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall cor. Felix Ave., & Marcos Highway, Cainta, Rizal **Future Link** 112 Panay Ave., Futurelink Bldg., Quezon City **Tutuban Center** Tutuban Center **Quad 1** Makati City **EXCELL/E-PHONE: SM West** CPP 149 SM City North EDSA, Quezon City **SM Centerpoint** 325 3/F SM Centerpoint Sta. Mesa, Manila **SM Southmall** 2D81 2/F SM Southmall Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City **SM Sucat** 213 3/F SM Sucat Dra. A. Santos Ave., Brgy. San Dionisio, Parañaque City **Grand Central** G/F Ever Gotesco, Grand Central, Monumento, Caloocan City

Catch the explosion at the following malls from May 27 to June 16, 2002:

LUZON Fiesta World Mall, Batangas • CSI Mall, Dagupan **VISAYAS** SM City, Cebu **MINDANAO** Gaisano Mall, Davao

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Another smashing men's watch, new couture bag, and what's hot and not

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

MUST-HAVE watch: Hermes Nomade. This year has seen the launches of memorable watches for men, from the Cartier Roadster to Tag Heuer's Steve McQueen-inspired watch. Now add to this list the Hermes Nomade, which had its regional launch in Bali last month. It has made such an impact in Asia that it's literally flying out of the stores. Its design is modern and clean. It has the distinct "H"-shaped links and comes in leather or steel straps. An added feature in some of the watches is the compass model. When you flip the top, the compass comes out. Cool.

The Nomade watch also comes in women's styles. Hermes watches are available at Rustan's, Hemm, Washington and Hans Brumann.

HERMES Nomade

Must-have bag: Givenchy macramé couture bag. Only less than 50 pieces have been in production. With such minimal number, this bag is currently the hottest bag yet (even hotter than the politically incorrect YSL antler horn bag). It really is not for the faint and budget-conscious leisure-and-style lady, but heck, if you have it, you sure will be the envy of every leisure-and-style lady. A friend of mine had to beg for the last one in the boutique window in Paris. It comes in two colors, white and black, with the latter being the couture version. The bag comes along with a macramé belt.

Mighty manicures. Was in Hong Kong last week and went to the usual haunts such as China Club, Kee Club and my fave 1/5th. The city's attention span for bars and restaurants seems to get shorter and shorter every time I go there. Just when you get to like a place, the next time you are in the city, it's already passé. But somehow, certain establishments have not given up and creative minds have come up with new ways to attract customers. One of them is the popular restaurant Alibi on Wyndham Street in Central.

To get the happy-hour crowd and the ladies (can the gentlemen be far behind?), they have managed to combine beauty treatments with alcohol (think: gin, vodka, champagne and not rubbing). The resto is now offering Mighty Manicures, a theme already popular in New York, L.A. and London. Women can lounge, sip their martinis while beauticians go about pushing the cuticle. Since we are a town of copycats, I think whoever laps this one up right away may yet get the early worm.

If ever you are in HK, check Alibi out and order the Viagra Martini (martini mix with red bull, red pepper—lethal poison; promise, you and it will be up all night!). Warning though: it's a manicure, not pedicure, so those with a penchant for showing off their toes, please keep them where they are.

TNT's What's Hot and Not List. It's been a while since TNT has compiled a list of what's scaldingly hot and what must be thrown in the trash. Despite what some people will say that it's not right or done, heck, we'll just have to do it anyway.

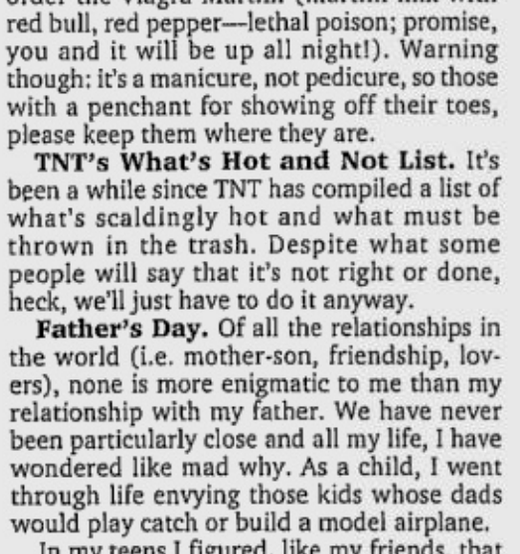
Father's Day. Of all the relationships in the world (i.e. mother-son, friendship, lovers), none is more enigmatic to me than my relationship with my father. We have never been particularly close and all my life, I have wondered like mad why. As a child, I went through life envying those kids whose dads would play catch or build a model airplane.

In my teens I figured, like my friends, that this was no new thing. I realized my father grew up in an era where men showed no emotion, only strength. They were supposed to be the breadwinner and the emotional depot is the woman's territory.

All my life I have wondered how my relationship with my dad in my early years had molded me, or how each tenet I ascribe to is influenced by that. Now that I am in my 30+ years, I look back on this relationship. It was not perfect and there are voids that still need to be filled. But one thing I know no matter what, the old cliché remains, that "you only have one father" and for me that's enough.

So, on this day for fathers, I would like to tell my dad how much I appreciate him, how the past is not as important as the present and the future, and how much I love him. Happy Father's Day!

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com



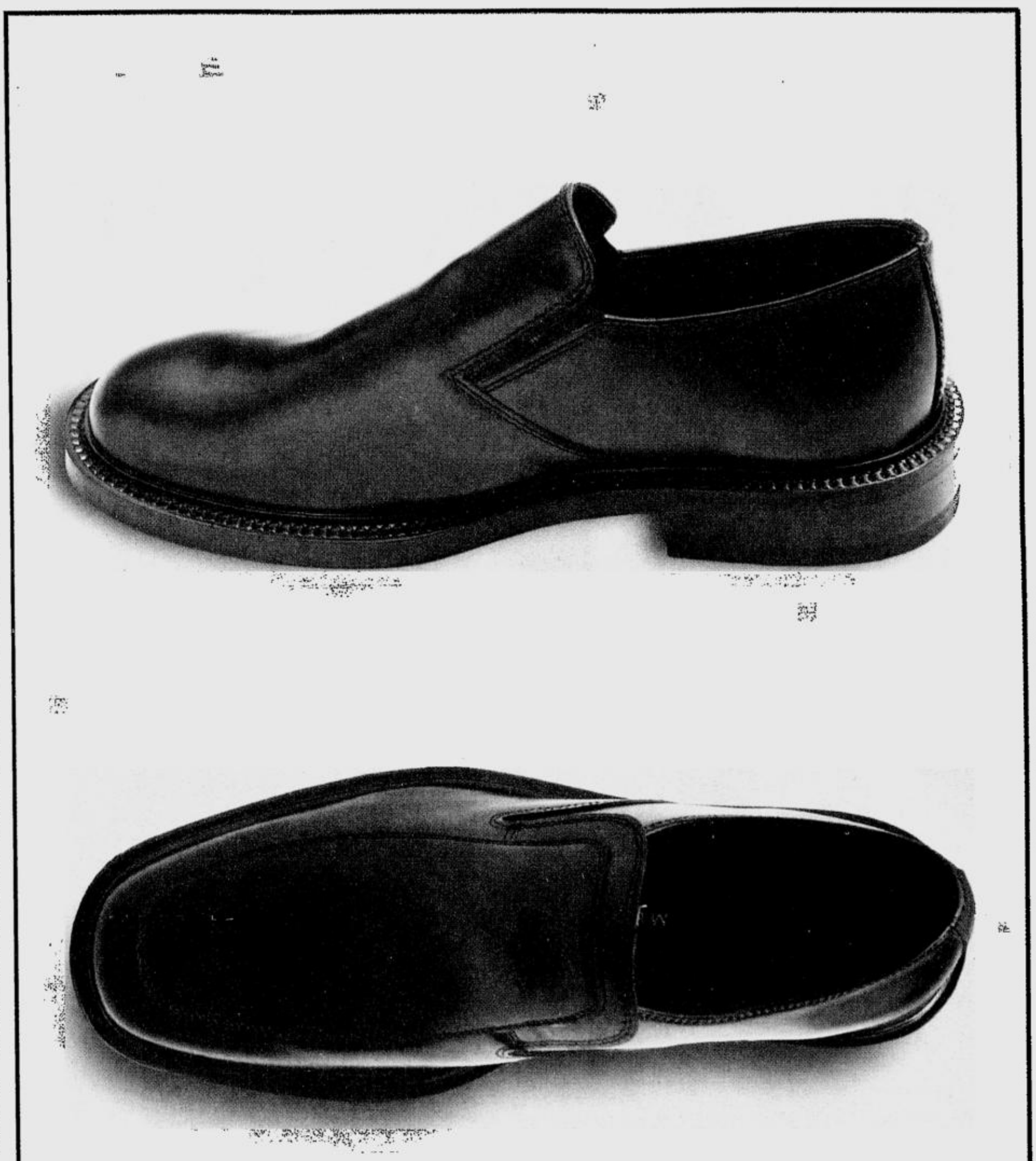
GIVENCHY macramé bag

HOT

- Eyelet and hippie blouses
- Salmon sashimi
- Lemon drop, lychee and watermelon martini
- Coke Light
- Movie relationship between Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst on "Spiderman"
- Listerine breath strips
- Acquario and Dream Bar
- Josh Groban
- Internet set-up cable
- Jojie Lloren
- Dinner hosts that know their A-Z's of entertaining and how to entertain
- Staying humble and low-key (think **Lennox Lewis**)
- Yoga
- Louis Vuitton soccer shoes
- Following who ends up heading PLDT and Fort Bonifacio
- Loyal friends

NOT

- Peasant blouse (time to bury this trend)
- About-to-be-extinct Chilean sea bass
- Cosmopolitan
- Diet Coke
- Relationship between Anakin and Queen Amidala on "Star Wars," passion and lifeless
- Bad breath
- Some Libis and Eastwood bars (take your pick)
- Russel Watson
- Dial-up modem
- Problematic designers
- Dinner hosts that do not know what to do
- Being arrogant, boisterous and media-savvy (think **Mike Tyson**)
- Pilates
- Square-toed shoes
- The Senate turnaround (Old story, does anyone care? I mean most of them are just there for themselves anyway)
- *Balimbings* (especially after the PLDT debacle); watch who will stay with the Pangilinan/Cojuangco or Gokongwei group



TRAVEL

Editor **Rosario A. Garcellano**

BOHOL *is bursting with life...*

Text and photos by Chit Itchon
Contributor

IT was surreal. I was sailing toward the open sea just as the first rays of the sun were breaking through the horizon.

My usual day started with a hurried breakfast and a tense drive to the office. Well, that day was different. I was in Bohol and it was as if I had entered a different world.

Instead of jockeying for position with hundreds of cars, buses and jeeps on Edsa, I had the sea to myself save for a number of birds that floated on the water. Instead of the office, my destination was a meeting with dolphins.

I never pass up an opportunity to see dolphins in the wild—truly a magnificent sight. Luckily, dolphins regularly swim and feed by the waters of Bohol. Spotting them there, particularly by Pamilacan Island, is practically a sure thing.

I sat at the front tip of the boat in the hope of getting a better view. As the island drew near, I eagerly scanned the waters for any sign of the great mammals. I was not disappointed. Within minutes I saw a large school of dolphins at play. They were like synchronized swimmers, leaping in and out of the water in unison or one after another. At times they jumped randomly, in no particular order or direction, still their movements appeared to be choreographed. Sometimes they disappeared underwater for a few minutes, as though to tease spectators or to prepare for the next performance. But if and when they resurfaced, they did so with much more vigor.

Unlike the dolphins' spectacular show and exuberant display of freedom, my experience with tarsiers is another thing altogether. It is close to impossible to see these nocturnal animals no bigger than an adult's fist in the wild. The tarsier population has dwindled and only a few in Bohol are allowed to keep the creatures for research or tourism purposes.

> The creatures sat gingerly on my arm, feeling so soft, so frail, utterly breakable

SHY, fragile wonder

One of these facilities is a regular house. It has an enclosed front lawn roughly the size of a one-car garage where the tarsiers are kept. An ample number of shrubs provide protection for the creatures.

The time we were there, visitors were allowed to have pictures taken with the tarsiers. I was my group's resident photographer, and I dutifully took photos of my friends with the animals. A standard pose was applied to all—two tarsiers on a raised arm, with another perched on the shoulder.

It was through the zoom lens that I really appreciated how unusual these creatures are. A tarsier does not look like a primate at all. It has a little furry body much like that of a puppy, frog-like feet and a rat-like tail. Its huge unblinking eyes dominate its face, and its tiny lips appear to be in a constant smile.

It was only when my turn for a photo op came that I realized how fragile tarsiers are. They sat gingerly and timidly on my arm, feeling so soft and frail. I was so afraid to handle them myself because they seemed so breakable.

It is hard to imagine tarsiers successfully defending themselves against predators, like cats. So it is no wonder that for them to survive, they have to be held in captivity.

My close encounter with tarsiers served as a reminder of the importance of protecting the environment. They became living proof that the world is indeed a fragile place—a fact easily forgotten in the course of my hectic and highly urbanized life.

My office is on the 17th floor of a building smack in the center of the Makati Commercial Center. But for Urdaneta Village's tree-lined streets, the view of the polluted concrete jungle spanning the area from Makati to Quezon City is unobstructed.

I found the exact opposite in Bohol, which is awash in greenery. At some places, I was hard pressed to find anything man-made amid the lush vegetation.

I'm told it's considered a crime to leave land idle in Bohol. If that's true, then the people of Bohol are definitely law-abiding citizens. I found their gardens filled with fruit-bearing trees or flowering plants, or both. I saw fields and riverbeds rich with nipa, coconut and bamboo.

CHOCOLATE Hills as far as the eye can see (top); a placid stretch of the Loboc River

And their greening efforts have expanded to the mountainside. Thanks to a tree-planting campaign spearheaded by the late Gov. Lino Chatto, new forests are thriving. The trees planted then have grown tall and strong, protecting locals from the threat of flash floods and giving renewed hope to the future of the tarsiers.

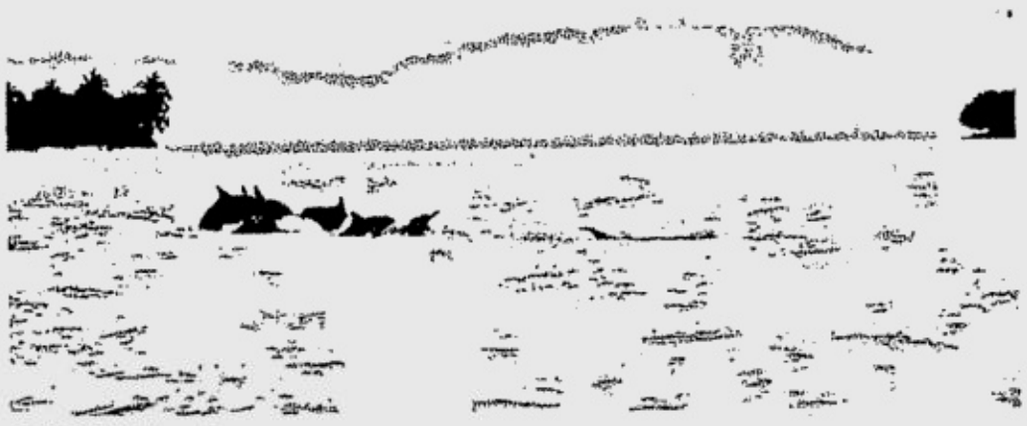
The highlight of my trip was a stop at the Chocolate Hills. It took an hour's drive up and down a winding road to get to Carmen, the town where most of the 1,268 hills are located. I was dropped mid-way up the highest hill and, from there, I climbed 241 more steps to get to its peak.

Going up 241 steps was no joke. It was almost like taking the stairs to my office. But the effort was well worth it.

A Chocolate Hill is quite amazing. It looks perfectly symmetrical and is literally shaped like a Chocolate Mallow or the not-so-pointy Hershey Kiss. Imagine seeing hundreds of these natural wonders.

The summit gave me a vantage point like no other. As far as my eye could see, there were Chocolate Hills sprouting from the ground, like a field of button mushrooms on a clear and pristine day.

None of that day's events paralleled my daily routing back in Manila. Instead of being weary and exhausted by sunset, I felt invigorated. It was hard to feel otherwise in Bohol, a vibrant province, bursting with life—the kind that is healthy, clean and inspiring.



DOLPHINS in a dance

...And wrapped in legends

Text and photos by Elizabeth Lolarga
Contributor

UNTIL tourist guide Nerissa Solon Caong called our attention to the matter, we had not noticed that the people of Bohol carried little or no Spanish *mestizo* features. This may be explained, she said as our coaster headed for Carmen's Chocolate Hills, by her forebears' resistance to the Spaniards and their collaborators from Cebu, as best exemplified by the 85-year-long Dagohoy rebellion.

There was apparently more intermarrying with the Chinese. That should have sounded sweet to the ears of Henry So Uy, Philippine Airlines' Chinoy executive vice president who joined the media group during the resumption last month of the national carrier's flight to Tagbilaran City after a three-year absence.

Local officials, naturally, were jubilant. Gov. Erico Aumentado went over the top when he compared the landing of the twin-jet, 148-seat Boeing 737-300 to the fulfillment of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's wartime promise of "I shall return."

The national and local governments, the governor added, spent P60 million to meet airlines' requirements like the new, jet-able runway. Australian tour operators are expected to visit Bohol, whose beaches and cultural heritage are being promoted as an alternative to Bali, he announced.

This raised some eyebrows among the skeptical news people, who said in jest: "Bali, ha?"

Tagbilaran Mayor Jose Torralba touted the event as a landmark in the promotion of tourism, trade and industry, while Rep. Edgardo Chatto of the first district of Bohol, one of the inaugural flight's passengers, said he expected PAL's presence to transform the socioeconomic status of his province.

The cocktail fare at the MetroCentre Hotel included two chopped-up *lechon* (the remains of which would later provide fodder for a running joke among the media group).

At the Panglao Island Nature Resort in Bingag, Dauis, where we were billeted, cold towelettes and cool fruity drinks awaited us. When he was offered a towelette, veteran lifestyle and entertainment writer Iskho Lopez told the server with a straight face, "No, thank you. I'm already full." He was to be the life of the party for the rest of the weekend.

Later, my roommate Gina Rodriguez and I showered, changed into our nightgowns, and wondered what we would watch on TV and whether the cocktail fare served was our dinner, too. Just as we were getting into our respective beds, Mary Jane Francisco of PAL's corporate communications department rang and asked us to join the group at The Gazebo, the resort's restaurant. So we undressed again and got into fresh clothes for the winding walk.

There on the long table were platters of *camaron rebosado* and *lechon* brought over from MetroCentre. What was new was the bowl of rice. Gina and I gamely dug into the cold fare. The others waited for their orders of fish and chips, seafood *sinigang* and a fruit basket.

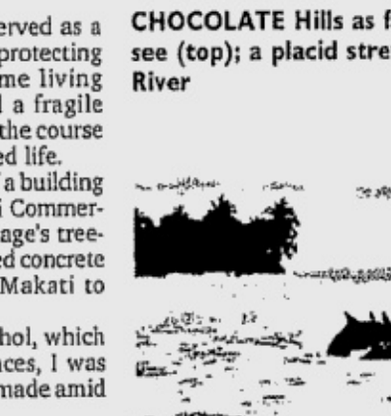
Jane was apologetic. The leftovers were originally meant for the PAL sales and marketing people who were unable to attend the cocktails as they were at the earlier ribbon cutting and blessing of the check-in counters and pre-departure area. Forthwith the platters were removed from our table, with much chuckling on our part. Just the same someone wanted to bet that the *lechon* would reappear at breakfast in *paksiw* form.

True enough, as we lined up at the buffet table the next morning after an early swim in the pool that carried the illusion it was spilling over to the sea, we found there simmering *paksiw na lechon*. Iskho impishly asked whether the dish was recycled from yesterday. A waiter overheard him and defensively answered in the negative.

The gabby guide Nerissa called the rough road leading out of Panglao Island "Massage Road." There were several mounds of rocks and soil by the wayside the color of cream. Iskho imagined them to be a prelude to the Chocolate Hills. Water them regularly and they would probably grow, the joke went.

Once on the main Carlos P. Garcia Avenue, we learned there were only four traffic lights in the entire capital city—an indication of how light traffic was.

Painted at the back of the ubiquitous tricycles were expressions of piety. It turned out that Catholic Women's League members had successfully lobbied for the removal of the pictures of naked females that used to be commonly seen on the tricycles. City Hall passed a resolution to that effect. Henceforth, "God is my strength" and other quotations, even from the Koran, replaced the worldly images.



STILL life at the Corella forest

On our way to Bohol's smallest town, Corella, home of the tarsier sanctuary, Nerissa fed us more facts and myths. The province produces copra, rice and root crops, especially *ube*. This crop is regarded reverentially for keeping the people from starving during the Japanese occupation. If an *ube* is dropped, it is quickly picked up and kissed to appease the spirits.

The legend goes that for a big, fragrant crop, an amply endowed naked woman must plant the *ube* under the light of a full moon. There was a sudden turning of heads to check on who among the women in our group was amply gifted. None was. But the folk belief might explain why Mr. So Uy was so curious if there had been a full moon.

After our visit to the tarsier sanctuary we passed Loboc (a local term for "pounding rice"), which is celebrating its 400th year as a town and parish. It is, of course, home to the famous, prize-winning Loboc Children's Choir, whose members range in age from six to 14. (Once the child assumes pubescent features, he/she is replaced.)

Another quaint musical practice here is the *suroy* (or "*pasyal*" in Tagalog, "promenade" in English), wherein singers and musicians play in different barrios and are fed for free during the period Dec. 25-Feb. 2.

The town of Bilar testifies to the success of a reforestation program started in the 1960s by then Gov. Lino Chatto, an agriculturist. Pillars of mahogany two meters apart keep the zigzag road cool. As the trees were growing, their branches were always trimmed so they would not grow sideways but straight and tall, as they are today.

Bilar is also where we tasted Bohol's version of the *suman* called *alupi*. "A" is short for *asukal* (sugar), "lu" for *lubi* (coconut) and "pi" for *pilit* or *malagkit* (sticky rice). *Alupi* should be eaten while it's warm. Someone said it had the taste and texture of tamales.

The view deck where the Chocolate Hills can be better appreciated requires climbing a 214-step staircase. The haycock hills are unusually green at this time of the year because of out-of-season rains. Several legends explain how these national geological monuments came to be, but our favorite is the one about the hills being the droppings of a giant carabao. Pooh!

The cherry on top of this confection of a tour was, as always for us, the Loboc River cruise up- and downstream. A lunch buffet of grilled seafood, fresh seaweed and the multicolored fruits of a summer about to end filled us with a languor that the serenading duo of Fredo and Nelson mightily tried to dispel with the danceable hits of Ricky Martin and Hagibis, among others.

At the end of the upstream ride we saw and heard the roar of Busai Falls. Nerissa said that it's not a waterfall, just a cascade. Since we were not told to bring our swimsuits, we watched enviously as a couple of Caucasian guys (including a Josh Harnett lookalike) swam toward the spray of water or slid on the edge of the stones. "Josh" signaled the bandanna-ed Jane to join the frolic, but she shyly shook her head.

The second to the last stop was at La Parroquia de la Purisima Concepcion de la Virgen Maria, popularly called Baclayon Church. The first-timers visited the museum with its priceless religious relics while we entered the church where a wedding was going on. The lights made the gold leafing on the *retablos* shine brighter.

By the time we reached the spot where the commemorative statue of the Blood Compact stood, only three in the group staggered out to have souvenir pictures taken. According to Nerissa, a theme park is set to rise behind the statue, featuring a museum with a replica of a galleon ship and a restaurant.

Back at the resort, there was time to loll in a tub of hot water. Our packed itinerary had left us weary, and we needed revival for the night ahead. Sorry, there was just a crescent moon.

SILHOUETTE of Balicasag Island in the distance; artificial island in the middle ground; pool of Panglao Resort in foreground

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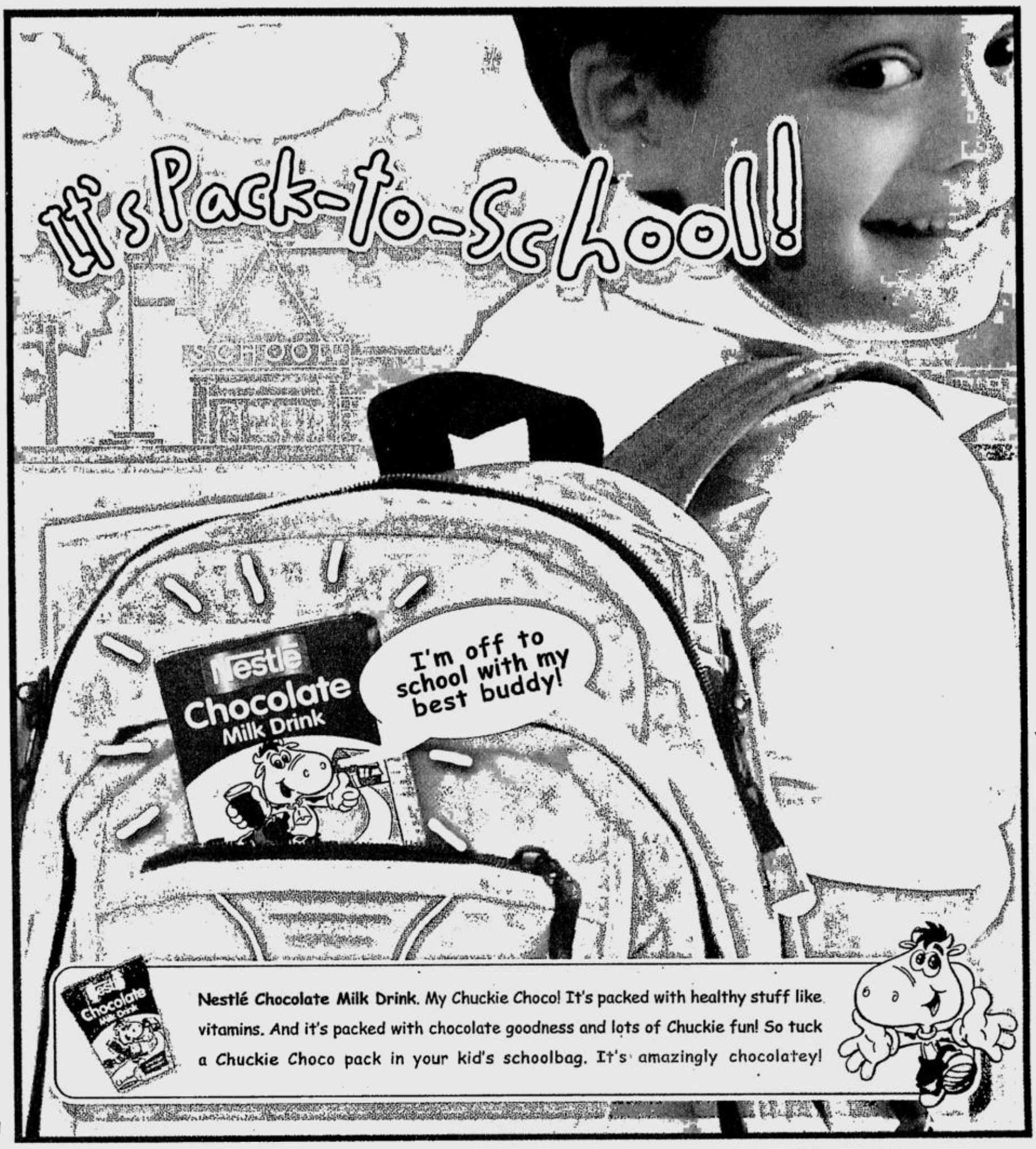

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THE CELEBRANT Maritess Panlilio with husband Gabby, Manuel Teehankee and sister Maribelle Pelayo

SPIRITUAL adviser Fr. Tito Caluag

Fabulous at 50

TEESAW

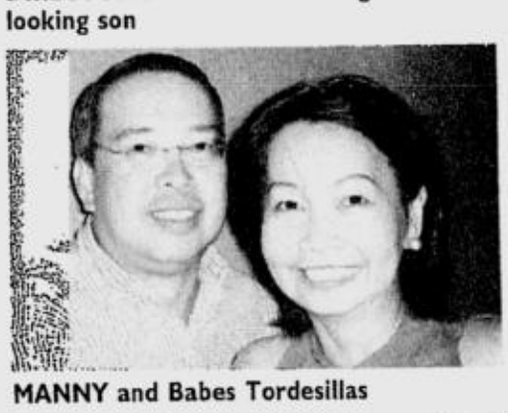
Raul Teehankee

MARITESS Pardo Panlilio, who became a golden girl last week, was given a surprise birthday party at the Wack Wack Country Club Cocktail Lounge. Fifty of her closest friends and relatives connived with daughter Ruby Anne to give her a memorable celebration.

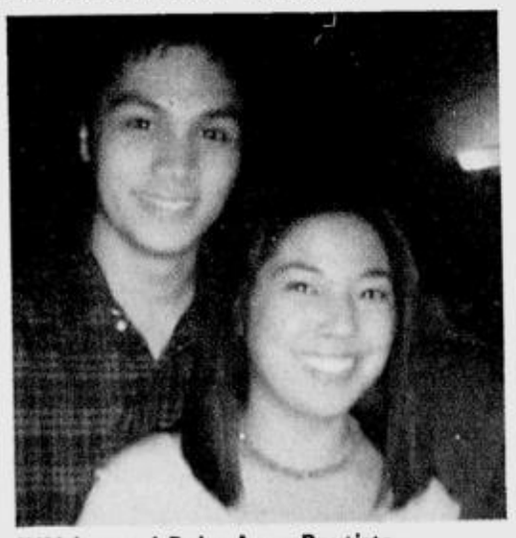
Lobster balls, angel pasta carbonara and beluga caviar on a bed of cheese and eggs were gastronomic delights washed down with a full bar of crystal vodka, cocktails and dry martini.

TRICKIE and Marissa Lopa

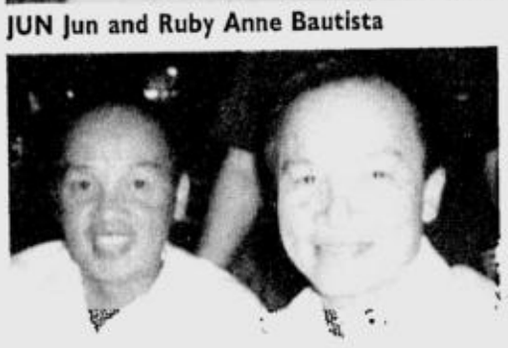
DIRECTOR Bert de Leon with good-looking son



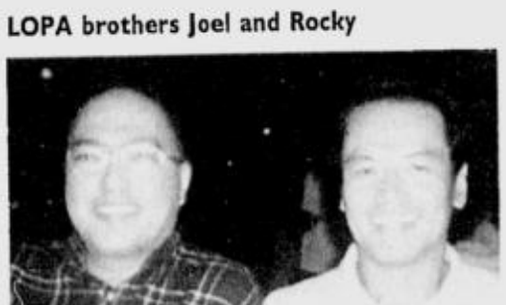
MANNY and Babes Tordesillas



JUN Jun and Ruby Anne Bautista



LOPA brothers Joel and Rocky



BASKETBALL team managers Rene Pardo and Raul Panlilio

DENTIST and pianist Dr. Larry Mallari

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 2338, Series of 2002

FATHER'S Day

Soulful readings on fatherhood

Compiled by Marlet Salazar

IS there a school to prepare a man to become a father? The school of life perhaps, where fathers share a tale or two to their sons on how is it to be a dad. Or maybe the school of experience where sons witness how their own fathers raised them.

We always look up to our fathers and value everything they do for us. We treasure the simple things we share with them. We give them our utmost respect not just because they are the family providers but we see them as the protectors too.

For first-time fathers and for those who want to build a special relationship with their kids, here are some books that might be of help to prepare and further strengthen their fatherhood instincts.

"The Expectant Father: Facts, Tips and Advice for Dads-To-Be (2nd Edition) *by Armin A. Brott*

A new father was asked, "So how does it feel to be a dad?"

"No words can explain the joy I felt when I first held the baby in my arms."

But before experiencing that happiness of great magnitude to finally have a child of your own, a dad was also faced with a lot of issues upon learning of his partner's pregnancy. Of course, the news was a delight! But then came reality. Though for some it is of little worry, for others the financial difficulty poses a greater problem. And here where balancing decisions comes in. This book is filled with information for soon-to-be dads. Not only will money but also the emotional and even physical adjustments are tackled in this book to better illustrate what a man can expect in the months to come.

"The Joy of Fatherhood: The First Twelve Months" *by Marcus Jacob Goldman, M.D.*

To avoid surprises it would be better to have this book and take the first steps of fatherhood just as your child takes his/her first steps.

This book is a guide to the baby's first year brings you to the real world with tasks like taking your baby's temperature, changing diapers to understanding their emotions. This books also contains a father's feel ings during the baby's early years. In this way, the father's involvement with the child's growing up year starts very early in their lives.

"101 Secrets A Good Dad Knows" *by Walter Browder and Sue Ellin Browder*

In a TV show a

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Ruston Marketing Specialists, Inc. (RMSI) is the official franchisee of Marks & Spencer in the Philippines

Soulful readings on fatherhood

From page H1

child was asked what his most memorable time with dad was. The boy's answer left the audience teary-eyed for it was simple: "When he taught me how to fish." Expected would-be answers were a stroll in the mall, or a date in an amusement park or when dad bought an expensive toy.

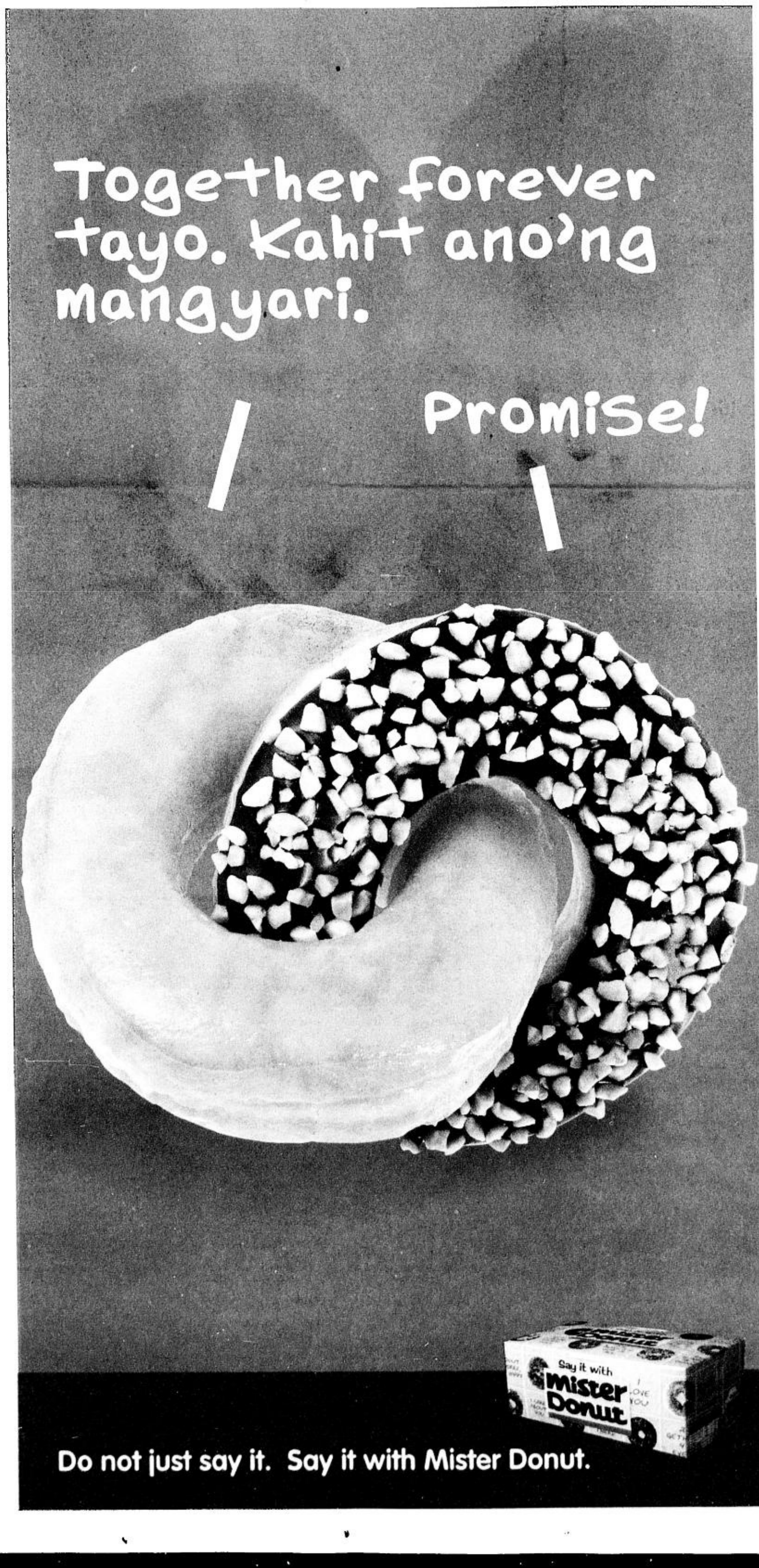
It is the simple things that the child always remembers when he grows up. This simple time with dads is what's imprinted in their memories. In this book fathers get tips on every little thing a dad can do with his child. Kids can always have that impression of their fathers as "the guy who knows how to make things happen."

Practical tips on how to catch a frog, how to fly a kite, how to give a cat its medicine or even how to find the leak in a flat bicycle's tire and much more are what "101 Secrets A Good Dad Knows" contain.

"Dads and Daughters: How to Inspire, Understand, and Support Your Daughter When She's Growing Up So Fast"
By Joe Kelly

Daddy's little girl is what we often hear of a daughter who has a close relationship

SOULFUL/ H8



Dad, treat your body right

LET US SHOW our appreciation to the Man who will do anything to provide for his family. Since it's Father's Day, every son or daughter should take time out to celebrate this momentous day with the man who has been constantly providing the family with shelter, love and support.

Fathers do not seem to mind the physical and mental endeavors they encounter each day just to persistently provide his family everything needed.

On this special day, it is just right to treat our busy dads so that they can be more empowered not only to enjoy their families and work, but also to cope up with activities that men should enjoy, even at their primal years.

There is a growing number of enthusiasts going crazy about ginseng and Royal Jelly. Ads have been drumming up primal energy and increased stamina as seemingly the only benefits derived from these nutritional foods.

Well, read further to find out more.

Ginseng is a natural food. This magical health-enhancing and invigorating "root of life" lives for many years even though its stem and foliage had deteriorated at the end of each growing season. Ginseng helps the body to better cope with stress by normalizing the functions of the body. For instance, if blood sugar levels drop too low or blood pressure rises too high, ginseng brings the body back to its normal levels. It also contains choline, a chemical in the brain essential for learning and memory retention. As a matter of fact, studies show that those who take ginseng made fewer mistakes than those not taking the herb during controlled examinations. Several compounds found in ginseng are known to prevent the growth of cancer cells.

Royal Jelly, on the other hand, is a thick, milky substance (combination of honey and pollen) secreted from the pharyngeal glands of nursing bees. It is a complete source of nutrition, needed for energy, mental alertness, stress, fatigue, and insomnia.

Royal Jelly is reputed to be an aphrodisiac and fountain of youth. It appears to stimulate the nervous system and speeds up glandular secretion, delivering potency.

Now, Korgivit-E has all the natural potent Vitamin-E plus Korean Ginseng, Bee Pollen (Royal Jelly), Lecithin, and Calcium Pantothenate that will keep the body in tip-top shape. It improves and maintains youthful zest and vitality. Korgivit-E gives more energy and restores the potent performance in conditions related to physical and mental activities. Take a daily dose for guaranteed satisfaction.

Mister D's got something for Dad!

IT'S FATHER'S Day. Are you going to go through another difficult time at some gift section deciding between a tie you can't afford or a cheap-looking hankie for Dad?

Get some other gift ideas for the main man himself, from Mister Donut. The donut shop that offers not just great coffee but 60 donut varieties to choose from. Say you care, say you love him, say thank you, say he's your idol with cream-filled, jelly-filled, chocolate , glazed, peanut dusted, cinnamon sprinkled, frosted donuts and touch his heart. After all, didn't they always say that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach?

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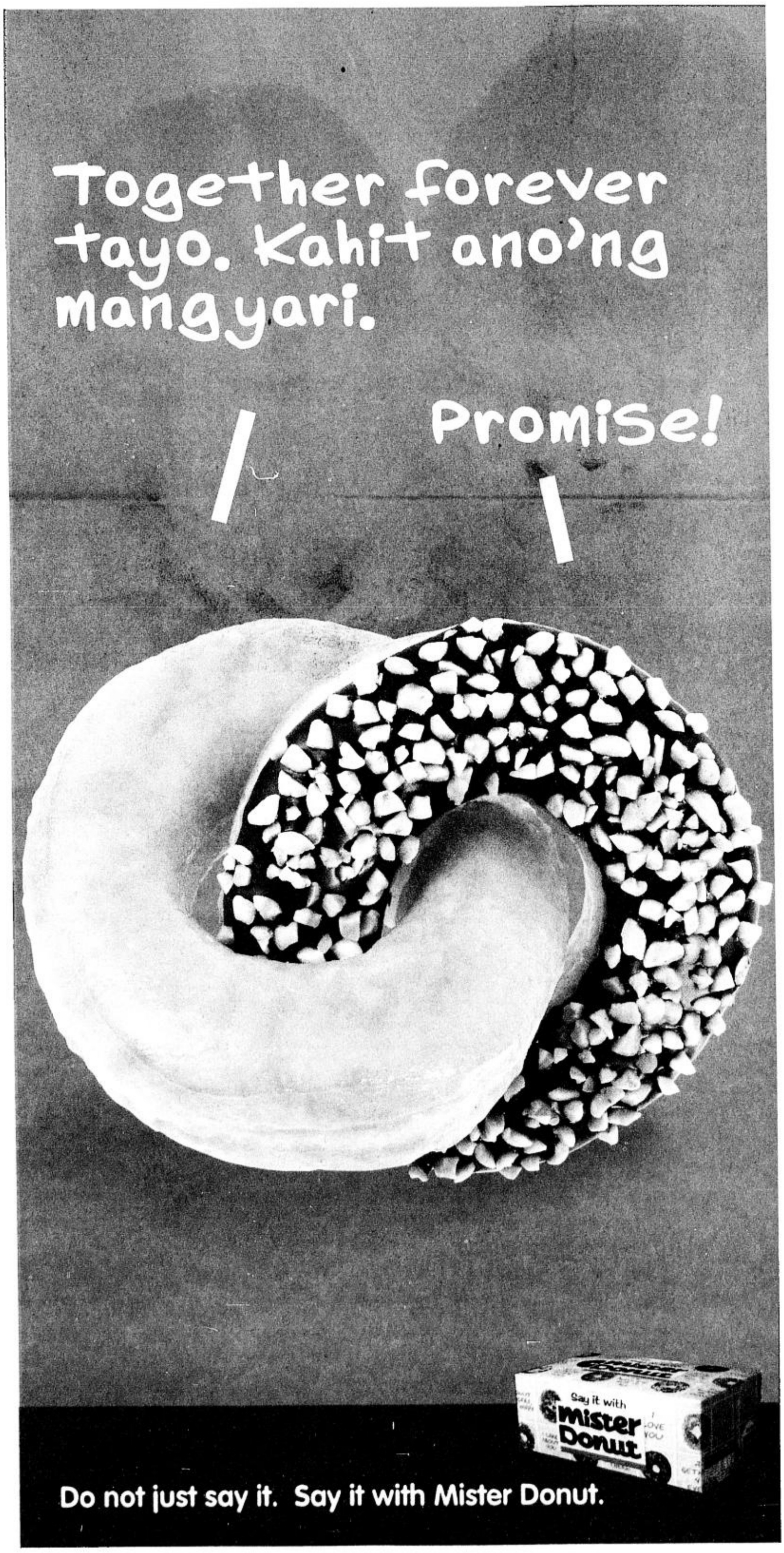

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Kids can always have that impression of their fathers as the guy who knows how to make things happen

Rustan's and Family Reader salute the world's best coach

PROVIDING shoppers with an exciting mix of quality products and service is indeed Rustan's cup of tea. And every so often, Rustan's whips up something new and exciting for the whole family. This time, it has teamed up with Family Reader (FR), the magazine that makes shared parenting real. Together, they are all set and ready to offer one unique experience for dads and the whole family this Father's Day.

Rustan's and FR celebrate Father's Day with one festive theme dubbed "A Salute to Dad, the World's Best Coach." It's going to be an entire weekend of thrills and treats on June 15 and 16.

The celebration kicked off June 15 with a parenting workshop at the 6th floor of Rustan's. In a short feature in this month's issue of FR, Anthony Pangilinan said "It isn't so much my ability that really matters to those whom I value most, it's my availability." Listen up as Anthony shares his thoughts on how working fathers should find quality time for the family.

Rustan's is also set to transform its department stores in Makati, Shangri-La Plaza, Alabang, Harrison Plaza and Cubao into exciting game zones. Dads and kids are in for a memorable match in a fun fusion of games like billiards, darts, and machine games organized by Rustan's radio partner "Smooth Jazz" station CityLite 88.3 FM. All throughout the weekend lucky shoppers can also participate in a store-wide "Bring Me" parlor game.

FR is published monthly by Mega Magazines and Publications Inc. (MMPI) and is available at leading newsstands and bookstores for P95 a copy.

Linking with Dad with Michelis jewelry and accessories

UNDOUBTEDLY, kids feel closer to their mothers, whom they see as their heroines when faced with different childhood dilemmas. Fathers, on the other hand, serve as the stern member of the family, whose commanding presence instills discipline and values among his children.

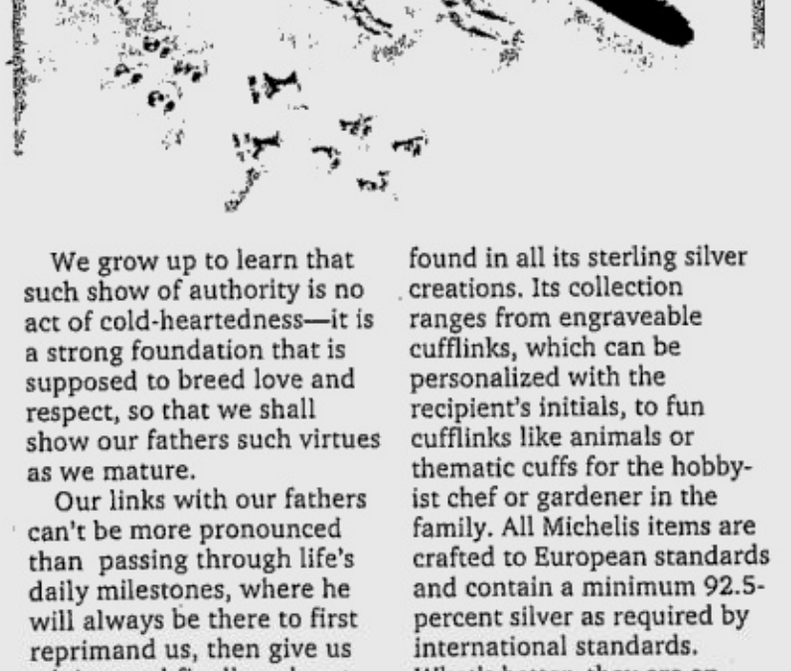
We grow up to learn that such show of authority is no act of cold-heartedness—it is a strong foundation that is supposed to breed love and respect, so that we shall show our fathers such virtues as we mature.

Our links with our fathers can't be more pronounced than passing through life's daily milestones, where he will always be there to first reprimand us, then give us advice, and finally, a hug to remind us that he cares.

It's only befitting to remember our fathers during his day, Father's Day. Michelis offers us a chance to give something special to Dad. Cuff links, worn along with his suit, gives Dad that regal look, worthy of the head of the family. His dashing persona will clash with our impression of his sternness. Then we realize Dad can be fashionable, too. And he can also be our best friend.

Michelis has the most extensive range of cufflinks available in the Philippines, with the same quality finish found in all its sterling silver creations. Its collection ranges from engraveable cufflinks, which can be personalized with the recipient's initials, to fun cufflinks like animals or thematic cuffs for the hobbyist chef or gardener in the family. All Michelis items are crafted to European standards and contain a minimum 92.5-percent silver as required by international standards. What's better, they are an exquisite find, for they are surprisingly affordable.

Michelis' new jewelry summer collection is on display in its shops in Greenbelt, Upper Lobby, Manila Peninsula, Lifestyles, Power Plant. For inquiries, call 812-3456 local 2996.



A salute to Dad, the world's greatest coach. Rustan's

A VICTORY TREAT FOR DAD AT RUSTAN'S

Whether you won or lost, he was always there to support you. When times were rough, he cheered you on. He reminded you to play fair. He taught you discipline, trained you for speed and fired up your ambition. On Father's Day, we're creating for him a special field of games and prizes for a most unforgettable event.

TEAM UP WITH DAD. WIN IN THE GAME ZONE.

Celebrate all the triumphs you shared with even bigger prizes. It's the grandest father-son (or father-daughter) event ever to be held at Rustan's. Here's how you can join.

Foot Daddy's shopping bill (with a little help from Mommy, of course) at Rustan's from June 14 to 16 and get a game card. No sweat because all it takes is P1,500 worth of shopping in Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza or Alabang, or P1,000 in Rustan's Harrison Plaza or Cubao. Pick up the tab for Daddy's meal and get the same card. You can dine in any of these establishments from June 8 to 16: Jeepney Coffee Shop and Prince Albert Rotisserie at Hotel Inter-Continental Manila, Tin Hau, Tivoli Grill and Brasserie at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Friday's Glorietta II, and Outback Glorietta IV. Each game card is your pass to play five exciting games in the Father's Day Game Zone at any Rustan's department store in Metro Manila on June 15-16.

Look for the Game Marshal and present your card. At the end of each game, the Game Marshal will place a stamp on the box corresponding to the game that was played. Fill out the raffle stub completely and drop it at the Game Zone drop box before June 16.

Imagine the surprise on your Dad's face when you win any of the two prizes at the Raffle Draw: FREE overnight stay for two at the Mandarin Oriental or round of golf for two (2) at the Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club. So watch out for this draw to be held on June 19, 2002, at the Rustan's Head Office in Mandaluyong.

AIM FOR THE PRIZE AT ESSENSES

He has inspired your successes and rewarded you for your achievements. Buy him a present at Rustan's and we'll give him something extra.

- FREE set of the White Moss Travel-Size Soap and Travel-Size Shampoo with a minimum P1,000 net purchase (single or accumulated, same day receipts) of any combination of the Acca Kappa Cedro Line (Fragrance, Shaving Cream, After-Shave Cream, Shampoo, Soap).
- FREE special edition J. del Pozo travel calculator clock with a minimum P3,500 net purchase (single or accumulated, same day receipts) of any assortment of J. del Pozo products.
- FREE 20-minute de-stress neck and back massage at the Essenses Treatment Room for Dad with a minimum P800 net purchase (single or accumulated, same day receipts) of selected Essenses men's products from June 8-16, 2002. (This is consumable within two months after the end of the promo.)

Promos are valid for cash and charge purchases from June 8-30, 2002, unless specified otherwise, at Essenses in Rustan's Makati and Alabang.

HIT THE BULLSEYE AT THE COSMETICS AND TOILETRIES SECTION

He directed your aim in life. So set your sights on really great deals on gift ideas for your Dad.

- Pay only P2,400 each for as many value sets as you want with a minimum P1,500 net purchase of any Christian Dior item, provided all items are registered in a single receipt.
- Save P300 and pay only P2,800 for a 200 mL Eau Sauvage Cooling Effect.
- FREE summer bath towel with every purchase of a 100 mL Fahrenheit Summer EDT.
- FREE Higher Ancillaries multi-samples card with a purchase of any men's fragrance except 100 mL Fahrenheit Summer EDT (one multi-samples card per customer only).
- Get a Higher Value Set (50 mL EDT and key holder) for the same price as a regular 50 mL Higher EDT.
- Get a Fahrenheit Value Set (50 mL EDT, 50 mL Hair and Body Shampoo and 50 mL Deodorant Spray) for the same price as a regular 50 mL Fahrenheit EDT.

Promos are valid for cash and charge purchases from June 8-30, 2002, in all Rustan's department stores including Cebu.

GO FOR GOAL AT THE MEN'S DEPARTMENT

His objective is to make sure that you fulfill your dreams. Make it your mission to treat him on his day and gain these special extras on the way.

- FREE Oleg Cassini tank top with every purchase of an Oleg Cassini pajama or robe.
- FREE Oleg Cassini key holder with every purchase of an Oleg Cassini or MR accessory.
- 25% OFF on any 2-item purchase inclusive of a pair of shoes from Façonnable at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza and Alabang.
- 20% OFF on all Vincent Prodier shirts.
- 20% OFF with every purchase of a Zegna Sport shirt and pair of trousers at Rustan's Makati only.
- 20% OFF on selected Ermenegildo Zegna merchandise at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza and Alabang.
- Special offers on selected shoe purchases.
  - 15% OFF on (1) pair
  - 20% OFF on (2) pairs
  - 25% OFF on (3) or more pairs
- 20% OFF on selected Alfred Dunhill and Dunhill Sport merchandise at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza and Harrison Plaza.
- 20% OFF on selected Givenchy merchandise at Rustan's Makati.
- FREE pair of Zegna Sport socks with every purchase of regular Zegna Sport shoes at Rustan's Makati.
- FREE pair of Ermenegildo Zegna socks with every purchase of regular Ermenegildo Zegna shoes at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza and Alabang.
- 20% OFF on all Goosey's shirts at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza and Cubao.
- FREE aluminum pen case with every purchase of selected desk and office accessories in all Rustan's department stores in Metro Manila.
- FREE tie clip with a minimum P1,000 net purchase of regular items.
- 20% OFF on any combination of selected Samsonite men's footwear and selected Samsonite Starck items at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza and Alabang.

Still don't know what to give him? Then score a Rustan's gift certificate for a winning Father's Day present. There's no better way to tell your Dad, thanks for being there.

For more information, please call the following Rustan's department stores:
Makati – 8133739
Shangri-La Plaza – 6334636-39
Alabang – 8505532/61/84
Harrison Plaza – 5211140-49
Cubao – 9112401

For DTI-NCR Permit No. 1107, Series of 2002. See poster and flyers for details

Take Dad to the Forest

The Amazon Platter consists of grilled 'panga' or crispy 'buntot ng tuna', 'inihaw na liempo', shrimp in crab fat, pork blossoms, and 'adobong kangkong'

THANK GOD for Father's Day! Now is the time to plan for a weekend outing with your Dad and the rest of the family. Come to Forest Grill Restaurant along Jupiter Street, Bel-Air, Makati.

Forest Grill whips up exciting American, Mediterranean, and Asian dishes perfect for your Dad's taste. Experience the cool and relaxing ambience, listen and be carried away with Latin Jazz music, be awed at the mist exhaling every two minutes at the entrance. Enjoy and savor the sumptuous family-style servings.

Forest Grill strongly recommends the Seafood Bounty of grilled panga, shrimp gambas, grilled tuna belly and pinakbet. Or you may try the Forest Sampler made of grilled liempo, lemon grass chicken, grilled pusit and ensaladang mangga. And for the adventurous group, the Amazon Platter is perfect.

The Amazon Platter consists of grilled panga or crispy buntot ng tuna, inihaw na liempo, shrimp in crab fat, pork blossoms, and adobong kangkong.

To those who want to avoid the traffic during the afternoon rush hours, Forest Grill promotes its Happy Hour from 2 to 8 p.m., serving ice cold beer for only P20. Chill out with its very own tuna sisig, inihaw na panga and other varieties of grilled dishes that go perfect with ice cold beer.

Forest Grill offers its fully air-conditioned function room that can accommodate 40 to 70 persons. It is available for seminars, conventions, trainings, group meetings, product launchings or any corporate affairs. Seminar packages start from P100 to P270 per head. For reservations call 896-5240 or 752-2646.

LITTLE DAD

There are little eyes upon you,
and they are watching night and day,
There are little ears that quickly take in
every word you say:
There are little hands all eager
to do everything you do,
And a little boy who's dreaming
of the day he'll be like you..

You're the little fellow's idol,
you're the wisest of the wise,
In his little mind about you
no suspicions ever rise;
He believes in you devoutly,
Holds that all you say and do
He will say and do in your way
When he's growing up like you.

There's a wide-eyed little fellow
Who believes you're always right,
And his ears are always open
and he watches day and night.
You are setting an example
For the little boy who's waiting
To grow up to be like you.

Poem was taken from the book of Charles Swindoll's Favorite Stories and Illustrations
Printed with permission from the publisher, OMF Literature

Purefoods Corned Beef dedicates this poem to every daddy, *tatay*, and papa who always gives 100 percent of his love, care and attention to the "little dad" at home and the rest of the family.

PUREFOODS
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Dad...

efoods salutes all fathers who inspire
eir children to achieve the best in life.

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Time out with Dad!

HIS WORK for your friends? Make it a done deal with Dad on Father's Day. Spend some time out with Dad for a change. Pass up your regular gigs with the gang for one great gimmick with Dad.

It's Dad's turn to take centerstage this June. Family Reader is up and ready for another round of mall festivities in celebration of Father's Day. Following the recently concluded Mother's Day at the Mall event, FR, the magazine that makes shared parenting real, now honors all fathers with a series of SM Mall events dubbed Family Reader's "Time Out with Dad."

At the SM Megamall today are top-rated performers Dessa and Bituin Escalante for a round of pulsating music in a show hosted by Christine Jacob.

Also set to swing into the scene are amazing acrobats to heighten the festive mood. Among the highlights of the event is a fashion presentation to be sponsored by Dockers. The FR team will also be on the hunt for FR's Super Dad of the Hour from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Completing the fun fair are exciting interactive booths, which will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. In a bid to support Dads—and moms—in the many demands and pressures of parenthood, Insular Life will be giving out forms for its Junior Lamp Life Anticipated Mutual Plan. Those who will be signing on the day itself will get P50,000 worth of accident insurance for free.

All things rugged and tough—that's what Dads are made of. And they can have all that and more from built-Ford-tough trucks. Ford has wrapped up the best deals for Dad with the Ford Freedom Festival promo. Dads can choose from the Expedition, the Ranger or other Ford variants until June 30 and enjoy low down payment and low monthly installments. Dads can always drive off to the nearest Ford dealership, or better yet, stop over at the Ford booth.

Mary Kay is all set to give Dad a little pampering, too. With all the work load and daily dose of pressures, Dad deserves a tip or two on skin and facial care. Moms will have to take a side step this time because Dad gets the seat at Mary Kay's booth. Dads can also spruce up with product samples to be given away at the Fa, Dep and Cogent booth.

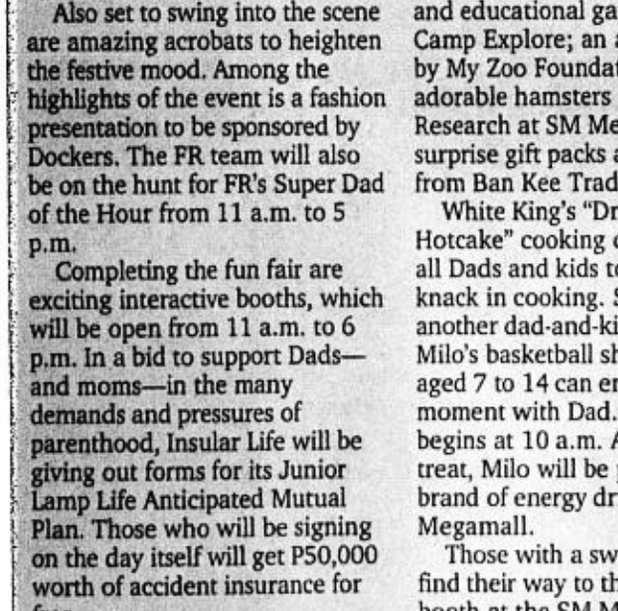
It's a family affair so kids who give up a day with their friends for a date with Dad are in for exciting gimmicks: rappelling and educational games from Camp Explore; an animal exhibit by My Zoo Foundation; a trail of adorable hamsters from Bio-Research at SM Megamall, and surprise gift packs and displays from Ban Kee Trading Inc.

White King's "Dress Up Your Hotcake" cooking demo calls on all Dads and kids to flaunt their knack in cooking. Set to be another dad-and-kid contest is Milo's basketball shootout. Boys aged 7 to 14 can enjoy one fun moment with Dad. Registration begins at 10 a.m. As an extra treat, Milo will be providing its brand of energy drink at the SM Megamall.

Those with a sweet tooth will find their way to the Cinnabon booth at the SM Megamall.

FR magazine is published monthly by Mega Magazines and Publications Inc and is available at newsstands. For more details, call Maia Manalaysay at 631-2859, 633-4785, or log on to www.ivegotstyle.net.

Spend some time out with Dad for a change. Pass up your regular gigs with the gang for one great gimmick with Dad



Arrow: the best gift for the best father

THIS FATHER'S Day, make sure your Dad knows how much he means to you by giving him Arrow Shirts, America's leading fashion innovator. With its quality line of sports shirts, casual wear, and business dressing, Arrow is the perfect fit for the father who knows best. Avail yourself of three neckties today for every long-sleeve Arrow Shirt purchase at any of the Arrow boutiques located in the Podium, SM City Manila, SM City Annex, SM Southmall, Robinsons Metro East and the newly opened SM City Pampanga.

Networld Hotel treats Dads

NETWORLD Hotel honors the most important Men in our lives as everyone plans sweet surprises for them on their special day. At Networld, treat Dad to a delightful Executive Lunch for only P220 net per person, or an Executive Dinner for only P250 net per person. These treats are available at the Café Sampaguita at the second level of the Hotel. Better yet, spend a night with him as the Hotel offers an overnight stay in a De Luxe or Executive Room for only P1,700 net, inclusive of free breakfast and free sauna for two. Call Networld now at 536-5828 or 536-7777 local 102 for your reservations and inquiries. Networld Hotel is located along Roxas Boulevard corner [illegible] Pasay City.

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One in a million

By Debra C.J. Victa

He is someone who understands and cares ... a great father for me and my brother, a good husband to my mom

HIS VOICE may sound familiar to many. His face you probably recognize. It's because you have heard him on radio commercials or you have seen him on TV once in a while. But have you ever wondered how Val M. Victa is at home as a father?

Dads. They make us laugh, they make us cry. They make us feel excited and curious at times. But most of all they make us feel loved.

For me, my dad is different. He is a wonderful playmate, a good friend, a helpful person. He is someone who understands and cares--a great father for me and my brother, a good husband to my mom. Although he works a lot, he finds ways to get home early and spend time with the family.

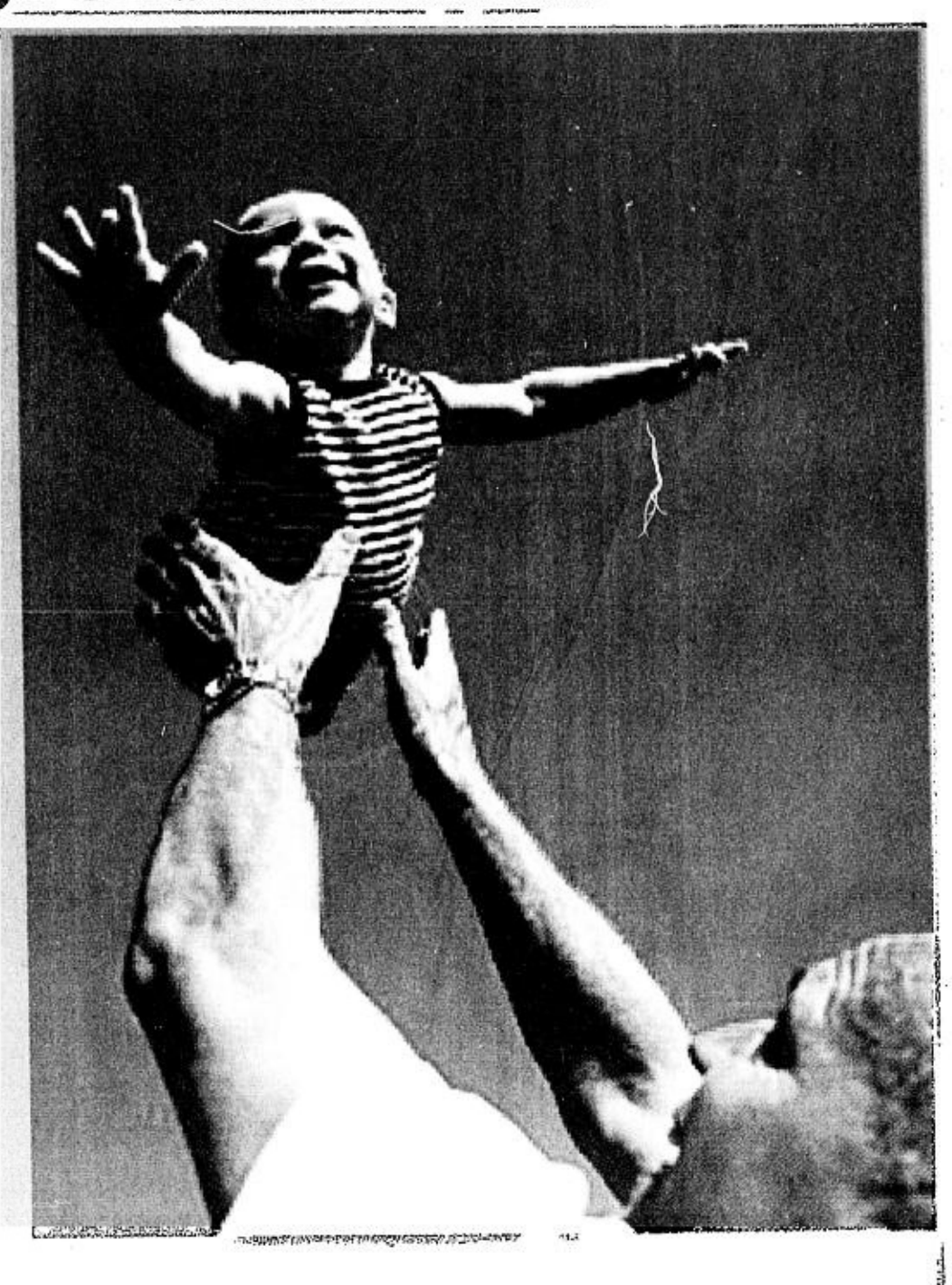
What I like most about my dad is that he is funny. Sometimes when we are walking in the mall or while driving he invents silly songs and we would sing them together and laugh. At home we always love to listen to his funny childhood stories and funny jokes, especially while we are on our dining table. I feel happy just seeing dad because he is a happy person.

But dear readers, young as we are, most of the time we make mistakes and we shouldn't be ashamed if we do. What is important is we should ask for forgiveness. My dad is like that. He is quick to ask for forgiveness even to us kids when he did something wrong. And when someone wrongs him he has no thoughts of taking revenge.

My dad is a great teacher in singing and declamation because he won medals in these when he was in grade school and high school. He is my mentor and my brother's too, and most of the time my brother and I also bring home medals when we compete. Dad stands tall and proud of his achievements and accomplishments. He tries to give his best into doing things and he does not give up easily and that is what he teaches us.

Well, at times there are little misunderstandings between us kids and dad, but always, at the end, he reassures us of his love and that everything will be all right and back to normal. Mom helps dad a lot too but she worries too much sometimes. My dad loves my mom. He does not fight her. Dad makes sure that all will be fine when a problem arises because God is with us.

Indeed, it's great to have a father like dad. I love him and I am so proud of him because he is one in a million.



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A HAPPY, HEALTHY LIFE

Ensure proper nutrition for your loved ones

NO MIRACLE drug or wonder cure can stop you from growing old. After all, it's a natural process which all of us will face in turn. But it doesn't have to be a time for despair and deterioration. By learning how to take care of your mental and physical health, there's no reason why the years to come shouldn't be happy, healthy and active ones.

When it comes to this stage, too, there's no other time that our beloved elderly – most especially our parents – are in need of our caring support much more.

This is because as our parents age, their bodies become more fragile in ways we also could hardly notice. They become more prone to infections and diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer and arthritis.

In most cases, when our elderly parents retire, they already spend most of their time at home, too. Since they have more time at their disposal, they would like to relax and enjoy the things they previously did not have time for – like reading, tending the garden, playing golf, and even enjoying the company of their children.

But because they may usually be alone during the day, there may also be a tendency that they hardly get to eat properly. They may not bother to cook and prefer to eat just biscuits or bread and coffee instead. And because of their decreased appetite, they usually skip meals, which may lead to marginal malnutrition.

It is in response to the special nutritional needs of older persons that Abbott Laboratories has Ensure, a nutritional meal replacement drink. It has been adjudged by medical professionals as a complete and balanced nutritional that can be a sole source of nutrition. Ensure, to date, is the No. 1 Doctor-Recommended Oral Meal Replacement in the United States and the Philippines.

With Ensure, our parents can get the proper nutrition they need. As children, our parents made sure we got the best; now, it's our turn to give our parents the best – by giving them a gift of good health.

"Ensure is a complete and balanced nutritional that our parents can drink every day," Catherine C. Diamante, senior product manager for Abbott Laboratories Philippines' hospital care division, says. "It's actually giving them delicious and nutritious food in the convenience of a glass of vanilla or chocolate drink."

All Hats' gift to the Main Man

ALL HATS, the ultimate source for headgear, pays homage to the main man in our lives this Father's Day. Our hardworking and loving Dads always need protection from the sun—and a hat is surely the best gift idea.

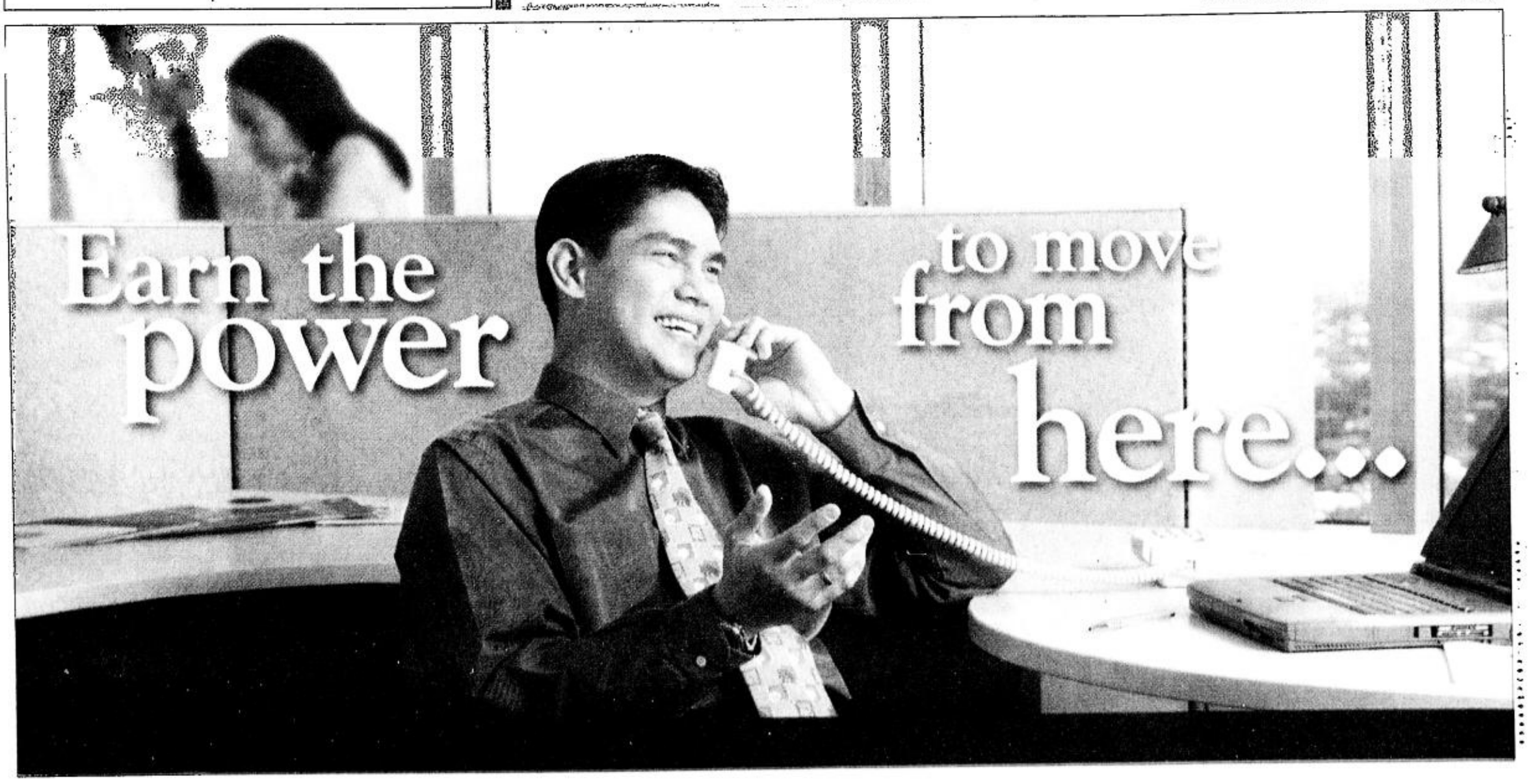
Choose the right hat for your Dad at any All Hats store located at Alabang Town Center, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Glorietta 3 Ayala Center, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place and Festival Supermall.

Let your Dad don a Greg Norman-style hat during his golf sessions with All Hats' Panama Gambler, made from straw materials raffia or buri. Or better yet give him that Hawaii Five-O appeal with All Hats' Tropical Panama, a hit with American beachgoers since the Fifties.

ALL Hats' Tropical Panama

Give more adventurous pops a more macho look with the Western-Style Man's Man Cowboy Hat, the original cowboy hat. Or let him walk on the wild side in style with the sophisticated Panama Safari, made from different natural fibers woven into an elbow design.

ALL Hats' Panama Gambler



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My favorite dads on TV

Though people say that the show is too good to be true, an hour of an escape from the real world, I think, won't hurt.

WATCHING these dads on TV gave me the impression that fathers are these cool, patient and ideal. I'm a self-confessed TV enthusiast and try not to miss an episode of their shows as long as work allows. Their timeslots are my time at home: noise is a forbidden act when I'm tuned in. I always make it a point to catch every word they'll utter and every advice they'll give to their children.

Allow me to share who these fathers are and what makes them lovable (for me at least).

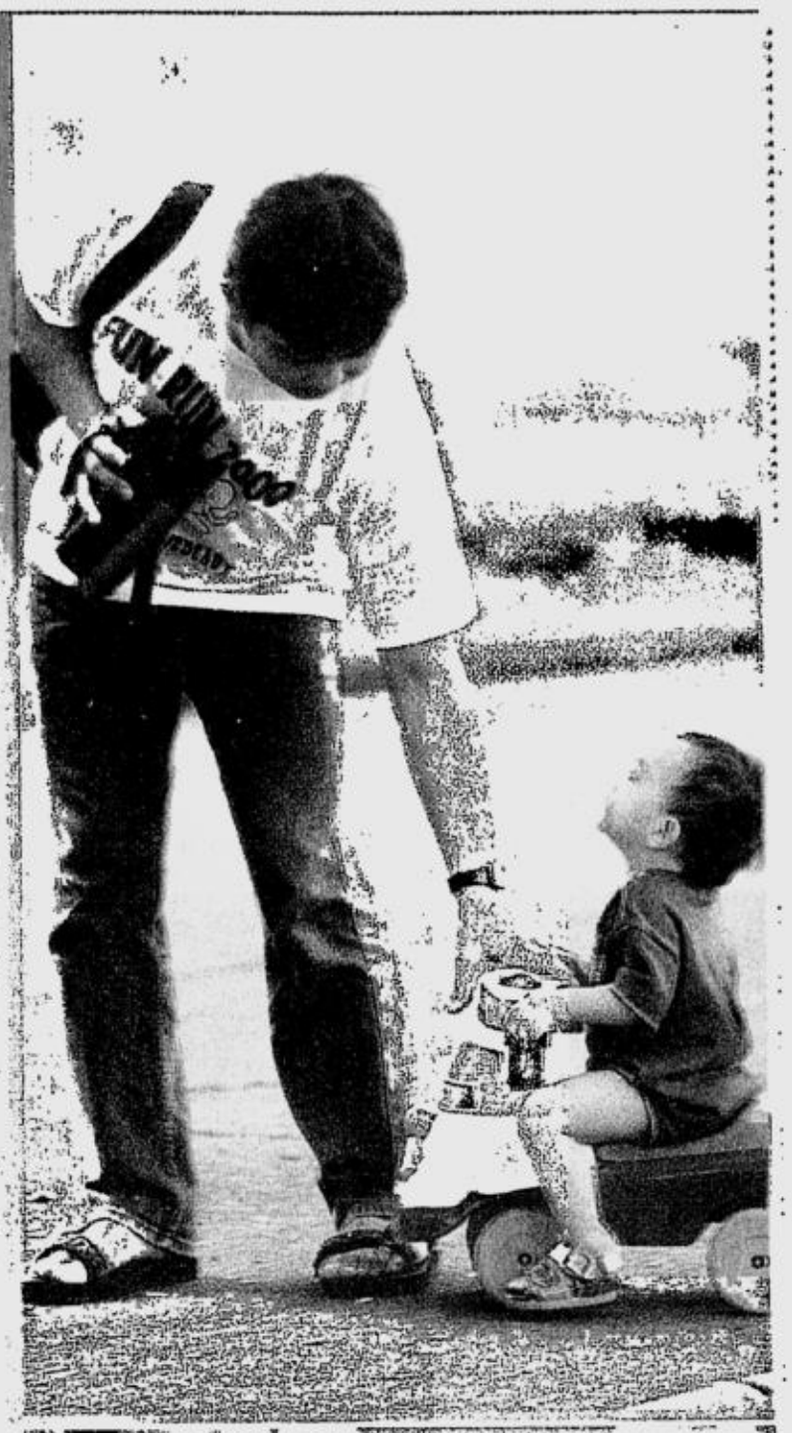
Top of my list of course is Reverend Eric Camden played by writer and actor Stephen Collins. Who wouldn't love this nice guy? Eric's style of parenting has always impressed me. The character he plays makes room for his children to participate in family decisions. What amazes me most is the way he gives punishments if one of his little darlings got tangled up in a mess. His role as a father allows listening to what the kid has to say before making a decision that will affect the family. Another point I most appreciate is his vow of secrecy to what a child confides to him.

Though people say that the show is too good to be true, an hour of an escape from the real world, I think, won't hurt.

Before I get accused of not patronizing Filipino TV shows, let me give my piece of every Filipino's favorite family-oriented show. I grew up watching the wacky John Puruntong of the famed "John and Marsha." Ace comedian Dolphy had put fatherhood some sense of humor. But what I most remember about the character of John is the fact that he had always stood up for his family. In spite of the simple life he could provide for them, his position as the head of the family was always respected not just of the circle but other people as well.

Is anyone familiar with the show "Two of a Kind"? It's that short-lived Olsen twins TV program which was aired on Philippine television sometime last year. Who can resist the hunky single father Kevin Burke played by Christopher Sieber? A professor trying to juggle up work and playing father and mother to his twins makes the character even more lovable. Kevin is the epitome of the 21st century dad without sacrificing the values children need to learn. He faces the entry of the adolescent years of his two girls with grace. With the help of a nanny, Kevin still wants to get involved with his daughters' affairs without compromising their privacy.

Last but definitely not the least is that gray-haired dad Martin Crane of the sitcom "Frasier." Martin Crane is played by John Mahoney. The show's focus on his character as the father who tries to mend whatever bad blood occurred between him and son Frasier (played by Kelsey Grammer). Behind the occasional bickering Martin's character manages to assert father figure to his two sons. One of my favorite episodes was the chess match between Martin and Frasier. Son couldn't accept defeat against his aging dad but realized in the end what his dad has taught them about life. Incidentally, John Mahoney's birthday is on June 20. ***Marlet Salazar***



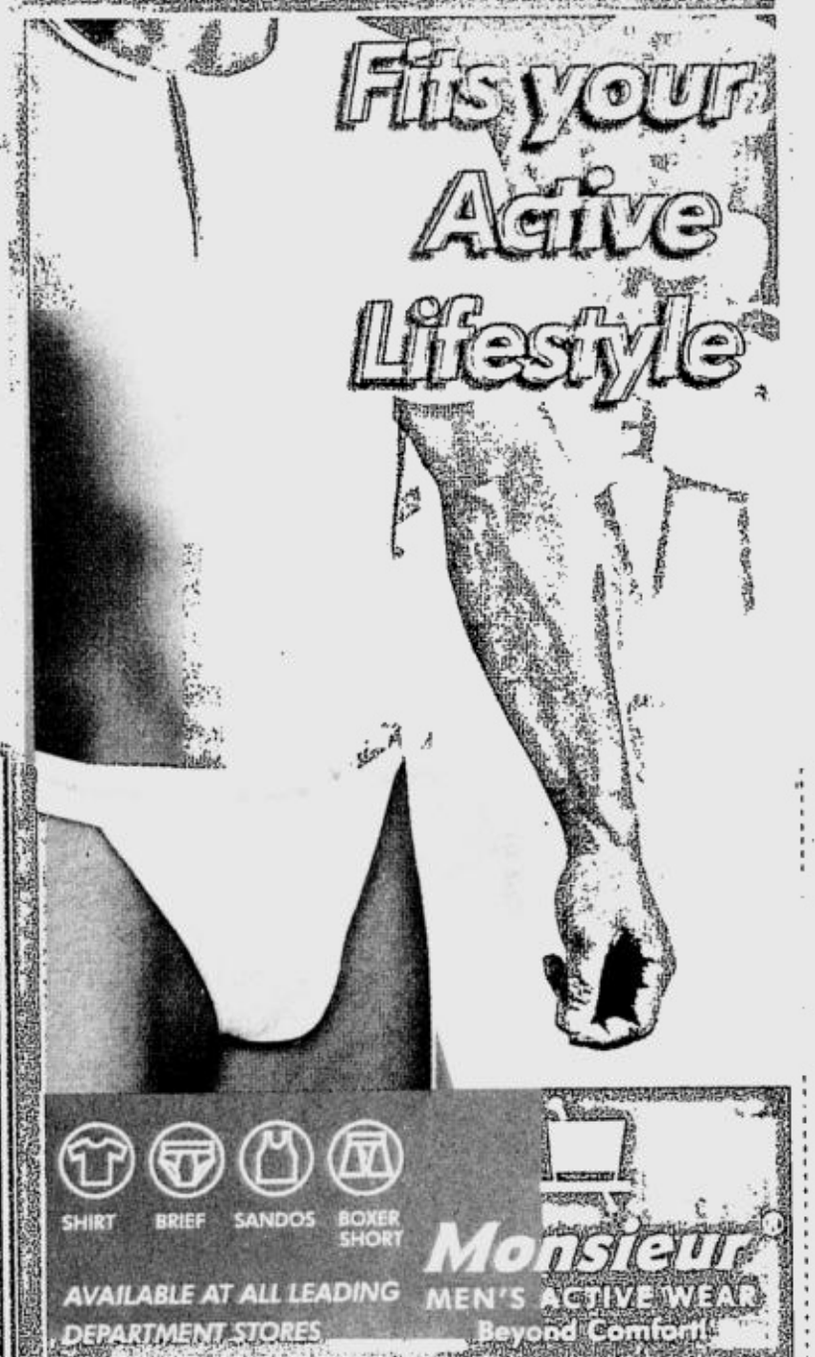
What Dad really taught me

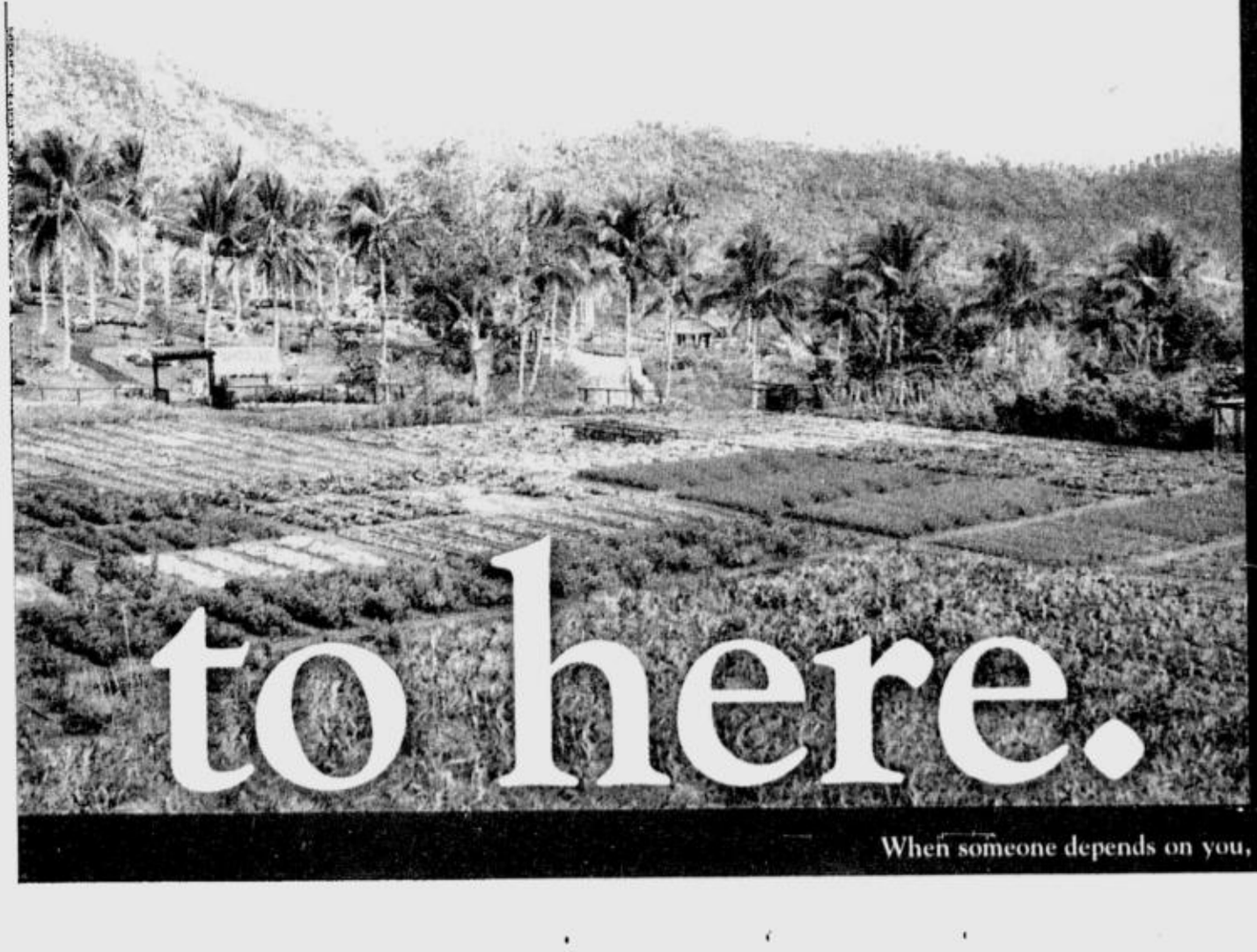
EVERY Father's Day you get your dad the same thing, a tie, a pair of socks or another tool. Have you ever taken the time to thank him for all his wisdom and life lessons he's passed on to you over the years?

Take a moment and thank Dad for:

- Those annoying phrases you've caught yourself using with your kids.
- Teaching you the importance of quiet time during Sunday night PBA.
- Uncovering the little known fact that there is no need for a laundry hamper, the floor will do just fine.
- Proving that grunting and mumbling are acceptable forms of communication, no matter what your mother says.
- Using your first car (he purchased for P50,000) to teach you humility.
- Teaching you the importance of a fine beer. It should be savored and appreciated as a work of art.
- Encouraging your own ingenuity by throwing away the instructions while saying, "we don't need these".
- Illustrating the true meaning of pride, or lack of, by parading around in his boxers in front of your friends.
- Offering a brilliant rebuttal to the whole toilet seat issue. "It's easier to put the seat down than lift it up, you have gravity working with you."
- Explaining the importance of planning for the future by never throwing away anything that, "might come in handy one day".
- Teaching you the only tools you really need are duct tape and a Swiss Army knife.
- Explaining why camping and fishing trips are considered "real vacations".
- Giving you the confidence to never have to ask for directions—you always know where you are going.
- Showing you how to be adventurous and try the shortcut.
- How to do all the laundry in one load and allow more time for basketball. ***From PapaJan.com***

Giving you the confidence to never have to ask for directions—you always know where you are going





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PDI 6/16/02

Give Dad a new cell phone—for free

THIS FATHER'S Day, give Dad something through which you can call or text to express your love all year round—a brand new Nokia 3310 cellular phone.

Citibank, the country's largest single issuer of credit cards, is giving away free Nokia 3310 to all approved applicants of Citibank Visa and MasterCard. Just apply for a Citibank Silver or Gold Visa or MasterCard, or the Citibank Clear MasterCard on or before July 15, and if you get approved, you can bring home the Nokia 3310 as a gift for your Dad.

Upon approval, your Citibank credit card will come with a special voucher which you can present to selected Smart mobile phone dealers in exchange for a Nokia 3310. The list of authorized dealers is printed at the back of the voucher.

The free Nokia 3310 comes with a free 64K Super SIM card, waived registration fees and a pre-approved Smart Gold Plan 600. This plan comes with free 85 minutes talk time and 225 text messages for just a P600 monthly fee. To make it even more hassle-free for Dad, the subscription fees for the first year will be charged to your card and will be automatically enrolled under the PayLite Installment Plan, payable over 12 months at 0-percent interest.

To know more about this exciting promo, dial 423-3000 or visit www.citibank.com.ph.

Sbarro salutes all Dads

SBARRO Italian Eatery pays tribute to all Dads by giving away special freebies on June 16, Father's Day. For every P300 worth of food purchases, your father automatically gets a special gift courtesy of Sbarro.

At Sbarro, your Dad and the rest of the family will surely enjoy its quality and sumptuous dishes. Choose from Sbarro's wide array of pizza and pasta specialties: Hawaiian, Meat Delight, Pepperoni, Sausage, Mushroom, Supreme Pizzas, Baked Ziti, Lasagna, Fettucini, and Spaghetti Pastas.

Likewise, highly recommended are its Roasted Chicken with special rice, garlic bread or delicious salads. There's also your favorite sodas, juices and beers to go with the dishes.

Cap your meal with irresistible desserts such as Tiramisu, Chocolate Mousse, and Carrot Cake.

Sbarro is open seven days a week, and is conveniently located at SM City North Edsa, SM Megamall Building A, Robinsons Place Manila, Glorietta 2 and Festival Supermall in Alabang.

Free mugs, caps to all Dads at Burgoo

THINKING of a place to celebrate Father's Day? Your favorite family restaurant, Burgoo American Bar and Restaurant, is the place to go to on this special day.

At Burgoo, your Dad will surely love house specialties such as Oklahoma Style Grilled Baby Back Ribs, Grilled Pork Chop, Lemon Peppered Grilled Lapu-Lapu, Spinach Grilled Salmon, and the New York Strip Steak among other succulent steak and seafood offerings.

Your Dad can also choose from Burgoo's wide array of salads, pizzas and pastas and other appetizing treats such as Fried Calamari, Buffalo Chicken Wings, Santa Fe Spring Rolls, Chimichanga, and Onion Rings. Moreover, Burgoo has prepared special menus such as Burgoo's Four Brilliant Choices, namely the Shrimp Pomelo Salad, Prawns Cacciotore, Smoked Salmon and Seafood Jambalaya.

To quench your thirst, don't forget to order Burgoo's refreshing drinks such as the Kiwi Cooler, Strawberry Smoothies and Dalandan Shake—all made with Equal Sweetener to make it more healthy and non-fattening.

Here's a treat. For every order of these drinks, Dad will automatically get a free mug or a cap courtesy of Burgoo and Equal Sweetener.

So, for a special lunch or dinner, plus a fabulous treat this Father's Day, visit Burgoo at 310 Tomas Morato Extension, South Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City, at the third level Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City, and at the second level of The Podium, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

For reservations and inquiries, call 927-7424, 898-1815 or 687-5254.

Soulful readings on fatherhood

From page H2

with her dad. Whether they admit it or not, the father's influence makes a big difference to the daughter's life.

However, when girls reach adolescence a number of problems exist. Here, the relationship between father and daughter is tested. This book will help bridge that gap and aims to further nurture that relationship. "Dads and Daughters" will try to give fathers advice and what to do when problems come their way. This book also tackles complex issues in a young lady's life to help the fathers understand what's going on their daughters' minds.

Dads might not know it but their presence is much needed in this stage of their little girl's life. Communication and understanding are vital tools in having a perfect relationship with the kids as well as being a part of how they cope with their own problems.

Fathers are a primary male role model in a girl's life, it is from them where they create their own versions of males in the world. In this book Joe Kelly shows fathers how they can strengthen their relationships with their daughters.

PLDT convergence@home

Keep in touch this Father's Day.

Kung paano gumamit ng PLDT Touch Card:
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MIRROR
HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

MIRROR Magazine, the leading health and lifestyle magazine, seeks experienced professionals for the following key positions:

SENIOR GRAPHIC ARTIST

To head our Creative Team. Must have Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts, Graphics or Design; 3+ years experience in a glossy magazine or advertising agency; Macintosh proficiency (Adobe Photoshop and PageMaker), demonstrated skills in art direction and design.

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT MANAGER

Highly motivated. Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Projects a healthy lifestyle. Can work with minimum supervision. Bachelor's Degree; 2+ years experience.

Qualified applicants can look forward to competitive salary and benefits.

Submit your application letter and resumé not later than **June 24, 2002.**

Human Resources Manager
MIRROR Magazine
2/F Fortune Care Building
Dela Rosa Street, Legaspi Village
Makati City

E-mail: mirrorm@compass.com.ph

Puro Carne International, Inc.
A distributor of imported premium meat products and gourmet food specialist, urgently needs:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Main Job Responsibilities:

- To develop new accounts through marketing activities and product introduction
- To sustain and grow existing accounts through effective client relations
- To implement marketing and sales strategies towards achievement of goals
- To provide after-sales service to customers

Qualifications:

- Female, not more than 35 years old
- Preferably college graduate and with experience in selling consumer products
- Pleasing personality with good command of English
- Experience in selling to restaurants, hotels and supermarkets

We offer opportunities for career advancement as well as performance – related and results driven remuneration. Compensation package of salary, commission, incentives, and other privileges.

Please e-mail us your Resumé with recent photo at sales@purocarne.com or hanzel@philonline.com or fax at 889-2573.

2900 Faraday Street
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ADB

Fighting Poverty in Asia & the Pacific

Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

Assistant Financial Systems Analyst

Reporting Arrangements:
The position reports to Principal Control Officer, Financial Information System Section (CTOC-FIS), Controller's Department.

Description of Responsibilities:
The position will assist Head, FIS Section in the development, implementation and maintenance of LIBOR-based Loan Administration and Accounting System, and in reviewing other financial systems within the Controller's Department (CTL). Specific responsibilities include:

- assisting in the development and implementation of LIBOR-based loan administration and accounting system by reviewing and analyzing users' requirements, preparing data for conversion, identifying detailed gaps solutions, conducting fit analysis and assisting in user testing and training;
- assisting in reviewing business processes and identifying processes for simplification to facilitate system implementation;
- monitoring project progress and following up with users and concerned staff, consultants and parties to ensure timely implementation of project tasks and activities;
- assisting in the review of related financial systems by analyzing and debugging new and existing programs, verifying accuracy and completeness of computer program logics, diagnosing system failures, preparing incident reports and taking necessary corrective and preventive actions;
- coordinating with users and Office of Information Sysytems and Technology (OIST) for effective maintenance and enhancements of the required systems;
- assisting the Department IT Coordinator and CTL staff in analyzing CTL's IT requirements; maintaining an updated list of computer hardware and staff accountability; reviewing and coordinating with OIST for efficient and effective use of hardware and software facilities;
- designing and suggesting new reporting formats to improve work efficiency; ensuring completeness and accuracy of related computer-generated reports;
- preparing regular and specialized financial reports and undertaking follow-up functions to ensure compliance with related policies and procedures;
- assisting in the development and preparation of training materials and conducting specialized training seminars to selected group of users as necessary; and
- undertaking research work and other special projects as required to improve business efficiency.

Selection Criteria:

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level;
- a college degree in computer science or business administration with major in accounting or finance; a CPA designation is an added advantage;
- five years experience in system analysis or programming with knowledge in accounting or auditing;
- proficiency in MS Word and MS Excel, and familiarity with different programming languages and softwares being used in the finance industry; and
- excellent oral and written English skills.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its support staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management. For further information, visit http://www.adb.org.

*Send **CV/resume** and cover letter by **fax, mail** or **e-mail**. An online form is available at **http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp**.*
*Quote **Ref. No. 02-13** and submit application by **28 June 2002** to:*

Tel: (63-2) 632-4444 **HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION**
Fax: (63-2) 636-2550 **ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**
E-mail: ss-jobs@adb.org **P.O. BOX 789, 0980 MANILA, PHILIPPINES**

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

PHILAM INSURANCE

We are a member company of the American International Group (AIG), the world's leading U.S.-based international insurance and financial services organization. It is also the largest underwriter of commercial and industrial insurance in the United States and the second largest U.S. life insurer. Its member companies write a wide range of general and life insurance products for commercial, institutional and individual customers through a variety of distribution channels in approximately 130 countries and jurisdictions throughout the world. AIG's global businesses also include financial services, retirement savings and asset management.

To cater to the anticipated business expansion in Southeast Asia, we would like to build up a mobile regional talent pool by recruiting high caliber young executives as

MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES

The incumbents will undergo a two-year training program designed to develop talented individuals with leadership competence, professional know-how, and hands-on experience in the insurance business. Upon completion of the program, the successful trainees will assume managerial positions with the company.

The ideal person has an MBA/MBM and must be between 26-32 years old. We are looking for applicants with at least two years of work experience gained from multinational companies, preferably in the insurance or financial services sector. Willingness to be relocated, according to the business needs of the Company, is a pre-requisite. Ability to communicate effectively in both written and spoken English is also a requirement.

Being a highly successful international organization, we offer attractive remuneration packages and excellent fringe benefits, aside from rare career opportunities not only in the Philippines but throughout the Asian region.

Please send your resume', transcript of records and photo not later than June 30, 2002 to the address below. Resume's may also be sent through e-mail to Philamlife-HR.Recruitment@aig.com.

THE RECRUITMENT OFFICER
PHILAM Corporate Human Resources
P O Box 2167, Manila, Philippines

EasyCall
easycall communications philippines, inc.

Easycall Communications Philippines, Inc., a world class business solutions company providing domestic and global markets with cost-effective technology, connectivity, and customer interaction solutions, is aggressively seeking highly qualified personnel to immediately occupy the following positions:

Job Title	ACCOUNT MANAGER
Desired Requirements:	College graduate, major in Marketing. Has a minimum of 3 years work experience in a Customer Service-oriented company managing Corporate Accounts. Has excellent people-skills and has managed relationships with Foreign Clients.
Job Title	FINANCIAL ANALYST
Desired Requirements:	College graduate and passed the CPA board exam. Minimum of 3 years of relevant accounting or budget work experience and/or 1 - 2 years of Corporate Finance work experience. Technically proficient in Microsoft Excel, Word and Powerpoint. Good communications, presentation and inter-personal skills.
Job Title	TEAM SUPERVISOR
Desired Requirements:	College graduate preferably with Marketing units. Mastery of the English language with at least 2 years experience in handling people in telemarketing or sales. Must be results-driven.
Job Title	TELEMARKETING SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
Desired Requirements:	College graduate with a good command of written and spoken English. Has a cheerful and vibrant work attitude. Telemarketing or sales experience is an advantage.
Job Title	TRAINING OFFICER
Desired Requirements:	College graduate with teaching or training background, preferably with experience in developing, conducting and evaluating training programs in a call center services environment. Must possess excellent presentation, inter-personal and communications skill.
Job Title	QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER
Desired Requirements:	College graduate and able to work on multiple projects simultaneously. Must have conducted performance evaluation or quality assurance work experience in an off shore-call center environment.

CONTACT US AND SEND IN YOUR RESUME':

Phone : 533-8001 locals 6801, 6802, and 6805
Fax : 5310370
Email : jsr@easycall.net.ph
Internet : www.tdgworld.com
Walk-In : **THE HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION**
RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT
418 Arayat corner Libertad Streets, Mandaluyong City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

BusinessTrends
A KELLY SERVICES COMPANY

We are a Global Staffing Company with over 2,300 offices in 30 countries worldwide servicing 80 percent of the Fortune Top 500 Companies. We are looking for highly qualified executives to fill in the following positions for our prestigious list of clients.

VICE PRESIDENT - OPERATIONS

We are looking for someone who is a licensed Mechanical/Electrical/Civil Engineer with experience in plant operations for at least seven (7) years. Business Development function is also critical to the position. The person must be challenged to expand the operations of the business and must be target driven, mature, and can handle extreme work pressure.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

We are looking for someone with good communication and people skills; preferably an executive with well-rounded background and experience in Operations, HR and Administration & Marketing and Sales. Business Development function is also critical to the position and knowledge in Finance is an advantage. The person must be challenged to expand the operations of the business and must be target driven.

TRAINING INSTITUTE DIRECTOR

Our company is looking for a person who has had at least 4 years experience as a Training Consultant preferably in call center operations. The person must also possess the ability to manage a Training School or an Institute.

PROPERTY MANAGER

Our company is looking for a person who has had at least 5 years experience as a Property Consultant preferably in technical service related industries. The person must also possess the ability to manage a dynamic team.

FINANCE MANAGER

We are searching for a CPA with at least 3 to 4 years experience in financial analysis, budgeting, cost analysis, audit, general accounting, and internal control work. The person must be able to manage people and can handle client relations.

CORPORATE SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

We are in need of a person who has had corporate and institutional selling experience for at least 5 years. The person must be able to handle a sales team that is performance driven and can handle top corporate accounts. An engineering background is an advantage.

CORPORATE LEGAL COUNSEL

We are in search of a licensed lawyer with at least 2-4 years background in labor and corporate law practice. Knowledge in Personnel and Administration functions is an advantage.

PLEASE SEND YOUR RESUME TO:
1603 JOLLIBEE PLAZA, EMERALD AVE., ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG CITY TEL: (632) 631-3109
E-MAIL: btphils@vasia.com WEBSITE: www.businesstrends.com.sg

A power generation company is in need of the following:

RESULTS ENGINEER (code: RE#01)

Shall supervise the performance monitoring and engineering test functions of all plant equipment..

- Licensed Mechanical, Electrical or Marine Engineer;
- 27-40 yrs. old
- 3 years supervisory experience in Medium Speed Diesel Engine Operation and Maintenance.
- Strong technical skills in power plant operating processes; data gathering and evaluation of plant equipment operating performance, preparation of reports and operating & test procedure.
- Computer literate (Microsoft Office, database software)
- Good communication, interpersonal and analytical skills

(2) PLANT MECHANICS (code: PM#01)

Shall perform preventive and corrective maintenance of all mechanical equipment, including maintenance work orders.

- Mechanical, Marine or Trade graduate preferably Certified Plant Mechanic or equivalent
- 24 – 35 yrs old
- At least 2 years related work experience preferably in diesel power plant
- Knowledgeable in troubleshooting, repair of automatic diesel engines & auxiliary equipment
- Good communication & analytical skills.
- With working knowledge in standard operating procedures in dismantling/assembling engine components and auxiliary equipment of diesel power plant

MACHINE SHOP & RECONDITIONING MECHANIC (code: MSRM#01)

Shall perform welding and machining jobs in any equipment/machines, prepare, secure and maintain welding tools & equipment, and perform simple fixtures fabrication.

- Mechanical, Marine Engineering or Trade graduate preferably Certified Plant Mechanic, Certified Welder or equivalent
- 24 – 35 yrs old
- Certified welder ; At least 2 years experience in similar capacity
- Knowledgeable in all welding works, operations of machine shop equipment and fabrication jobs.
- Good communication & analytical skills

ELECTRICAL & INSTRUMENTATION SPECIALIST (code: EIS#01)

Shall perform preventive and corrective maintenance of all electrical, instrumentation and controls equipment, including maintenance work orders.

- Licensed Electrical, Electronics Engineer or Engineering Technology or equivalent
- 24- 35 yrs old ; At least 3 years related experience
- Good working knowledge with blueprints, schematics and instruction manuals; Familiar with Phil. Electrical Code
- Good knowledge in electrical, instrumentation, control equipment, logic operations, specifications of operating values, designs and trend out service life.
- Computer literate (MS Office)

Please send application letter with detailed resume, photographs and credentials no later than ***June 24, 2002.***

Human Resources Department
P.O. Box No. 1746
Makati City

Note: Indicate outside the envelope position code #.

Belonging to a highly diversified group, our company is in urgent need of young professionals to fit the following key positions:

BRANCH MANAGERS
- Male or female
- Between 25-35 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- With at least 2 years Marketing experience and knowledge of branch operations
- With good oral and written communication skills

SALES & SERVICE OFFICERS
- Male or female
- Between 24-28 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- CPA an advantage
- 3 to 5 years experience in new accounts, tellering, bookkeeping and supervision

ACCOUNT OFFICERS
- Male or female
- Between 25-35 years old
- Graduate of Business related course
- With at least 1 year experience as Account Officer for Commercial and Consumer Loans
- Familiar with solicitation of deposit accounts
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Pleasing personality

MARKETING ASSISTANTS
- Male or female
- Between 22-27 years old
- Graduate of Business related course
- Should have strong marketing background preferably in Banking or related fields
- Familiar with solicitation of deposit accounts
- With good oral and written communication skills
- Pleasing personality

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSTS./TELLER
- Male or female
- Between 21 to 25 years old
- Graduate of Business related course
- Experience in Tellering/New Accounts is an advantage
- Computer literate
- With good oral and written communication skills
- Pleasing personality

CLEARING ASSISTANTS
- Male or female
- Between 21 to 26 years old
- Graduate of Business related course
- Banking experience in Cash and Clearing is advantage
- With good oral and written communication skills
- Pleasing and service-oriented

TECHNICAL SPECIALIST
- Male, between 20-26 years old
- Graduate of Computer Science/Computer Engineering/ECE
- With at least 2 years experience preferably from an IT Firm or Banks
- Familiar with Networking, CISCO Routers, Windows NT, Datacom, MS Exchange, SCO Unix
- AS/400 or DATABASE knowledge is an advantage

OPERATIONS SPECIALIST
- Male, between 20-24 years old
- Graduate of Computer Science or any related course
- With at least 1 year experience
- With good oral and written communication skills

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS
- Male or female
- Between 22-25 years old
- Graduate of Accounting
- With at least 1 year experience
- Computer literate
- With good oral and written communication skills

AUDIT ASSISTANTS
- Male or female
- Between 22-25 years old
- Graduate of Accounting
- With at least 1 year experience preferably from an Audit Firm or Banks
- Computer literate
- With good oral and written communication skills

Interested applicants may submit their Letter of Application, Resumé, and Transcript of Records to:

Human Resources Department
E-mail: lance_evangelista@yahoo.com

Only qualified applicants will be notified.

Releasing children from poverty
Compassion in Jesus' name

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Provides leadership and management of the Program Department that is tasked to implement Compassion's sponsorship program and other child development projects and activities; supervises overall program planning, implementation, innovation, training, monitoring and evaluation.

- Must be an Evangelical born-again Christian, with strong values of integrity, servant leadership, teamwork and excellence
- Expertise in holistic child development, strategic management and at least 3-year leadership experience in development work, preferably in holistic child development
- Proven competence in leadership and development of staff who will implement child development programs
- Preference for candidates with a Masteral degree or post-graduate course units in management/social/behavioral sciences.

Qualified candidates may send formal application for employment with attached recent 2x2 picture, comprehensive resume detailing work and, salary history, and certificate of employment to e-mail address: rcosico@ph.ci.org not later than **June 30, 2002.**

Only short listed applicants will be scheduled for examination and interview.

The Human Resource Specialist
Compassion International Philippine Office
Second Floor, 99 E & L Building, Roces Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. No. 373-30-21 up to 23

A Multinational Pharmaceutical Company is in search for qualified professionals to fill up the position of:

PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVE

- ☑ Male or female, 20 to 27 years old
- ☑ College degree holder in the field of Science
- ☑ Must be computer literate
- ☑ Proficient in oral and written communication
- ☑ Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines

All interested applicants are requested to send their resumé, with a copy of transcript of record and 2x2 colored picture to:

ICN Philippines, Inc.
W902-A Tektite Building, PSE Centre
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Where you find the best.

JOB MARKET ONLINE
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

Rustan's

urgently needs...

HUMAN RESOURCE SPECIALIST - TRAINING

- ☑ Female, at least 26 years old
- ☑ Graduate of Business Management or any Social Science course, preferably with inclinations in business
- ☑ Minimum of one (1) year experience in human resources focusing on career development and training
- ☑ With strong leadership qualities, high initiative and organizational skills
- ☑ Must have the potential to work in all areas of HR with minimum supervision
- ☑ Must be people-oriented, mature, analytical and highly motivated
- ☑ Must be able to adapt to a fast working environment
- ☑ Proficient in English communication and computer programs

MARKETING SERVICES MANAGER

- ☑ Female, at least 25 years old
- ☑ Graduate of any (4) four-year business related course, preferably with an MBA degree
- ☑ With at least (2) two-year work experience in marketing/retail exposure focusing on events and PR
- ☑ Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- ☑ Must be analytical, results-oriented, artistic creative and with good fashion sense
- ☑ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- ☑ Must be computer literate

Those who meet the qualifications mentioned may send their comprehensive resumé with contact number, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photo to:

RUSTAN'S HEAD OFFICE
G/F Rustan Building, EDSA, Mandaluyong City

A leading Public Relations Agency is looking for the right candidates for the positions of

PR ACCOUNTS OFFICER

You must have at least one-year experience in servicing clients for their PR and communication requirements.

You must have above average communication skills in English, both oral and written. You must be organized and possess the ability to document all matters properly.

You must possess leadership abilities. You must be able to formulate and implement PR plans; motivate and oversee progress of team/staff.

You must be able to coordinate and work well with clients, media, and support staff.

You must be aware of current lifestyle and entertainment news and be interested to apply such knowledge to your tasks.

You must be able to write press and broadcast releases to address a client's objectives.

PR COPY WRITER

You must possess above average communication skills, both oral and written. You must be organized and possess the ability to document all matters properly.

You must have at least one year writing experience, preferably in Lifestyle and Entertainment (samples of written work are required).

You must be highly creative, a team player, and goal oriented. You must be eager to complete tasks-at-hand.

You must be willing to work long hours and under pressure to beat all deadlines.

EVENTS OFFICER

You must have at least two (2) years work experience in conceptualizing, organizing and staging events in the fields of lifestyle and entertainment

You must be networked with the media, major suppliers, and organizations offering technical and production support

You must be creative, a team player and goal-oriented

You must at least know the fundamentals of good writing and have above average oral communication skills.

You must be willing to work long hours and under pressure to beat deadlines

Send your detailed resumé, university/college transcripts, work portfolios, and recent 2x2 photo on or before 22 June 2002 to the:

HIRING SQUAD
Unit 1609-1610 Medical Plaza Bldg., 25 San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOB MARKET

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

TECHNICAL TRAINING ASST. MANAGER

- Graduate of Industrial Engineering or Behavioral Science/Psychology
- At least two years Asst. Manager experience or four years Supervisory experience in similar capacity
- Computer literate
- Excellent interpersonal & communication skills
- Can design, develop and conduct training programs
- Male or Female
- Age limit is 35

HRD ASSISTANTS

- Will be assigned either in training or recruitment/background checking
- Graduates of Psychology, Behavioral Science or Business Administration
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Must be willing to work on shifts
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Male or female, age limit is 24

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- At least 3-5 years similar experience preferably in a multinational company reporting to a senior executive
- Graduate of a 4-year course, preferably in Management or Administration
- Possesses leadership qualities and the ability to deal with all levels in the organization
- With pleasing personality and excellent communication skills
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- Female, age limit is 35

PLANNING ASSISTANT

- Graduate of Management or Business Administration
- Must be proficient in Windows applications
- With or without experience
- Female, age limit is 24

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FUJITSU

Fujitsu Computer Products is a leading manufacturer of hard disk drives and magneto-resistive heads. After almost seven years of commercial operations, we now have 6,800 employees. We were awarded by PEZA as Top Employer Hall of Fame by being Top Employer for the years 1997 to 1999. Successful candidates will be based in Canlubang, Laguna. Shuttle buses to and from the site are available even for Metro Manila residents. Please send your resumes to: The Assistant Vice President, HRD & General Affairs Department, Fujitsu Computer Products Corporation of the Philippines, SEPZ, Carmelray Industrial Park, Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna, or email to: lgarcia@fcpp.fujitsu.com or you may also apply personally in business attire, every M-W-F at 9 AM.

IMMEDIATE HIRING

FINANCE MANAGER

The successful candidate shall manage the accounting, financial reporting, funding and budgeting functions in the Philippine Headquarters, and shall be responsible for providing financial information to Management.

- He/she must possess a Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy. Preferably a CPA.
- Must have hands-on experience using SAP Systems as well as competence in Excel, Word, Internet and Intranet.
- At least 10 years of progressive working experience in Finance/Accounting is required, 5 years of which is in middle management position.
- Excellent communication, interpersonal, management and supervisory skills.
- Must be willing to travel and work long hours.

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICERS

- Female; Highly personable; At least 5'4" in height; not more than 26 years old.
- College/University graduate ideally of Social Sciences or Business related course.
- Must be highly articulate in English, both written and oral communication.
- Has strong customer focus, high tolerance for stress, initiative to learn, with keen attention to details, and patience in handling customer complaints.
- Willing to work on shifting schedule and/or extended working hours.
- Experience gained from a telecoms or any service-oriented industry an advantage

CALL CENTER AGENTS

- Female; personable; not more than 26 years old
- College/University graduate ideally of Social Sciences or Business related course
- Fluent in English with good voice projection and can handle conversation with local & foreign clienteles; Must be highly motivated and goal oriented
- Willing to work on shifting schedule and/or extended working hours
- Relevant work experience would be an advantage

BE PART OF OUR TEAM ...! Send or hand-carry your detailed resume and most recent passport size ID picture to:

accs ACCORD CUSTOMER CARE SOLUTIONS

The Human Resources Department
Unit 4 Garden Level, Bonaventure Plaza
Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, MM
☎ 722-6337 • 🖷 722-6367
e-mail: gdwinidni@accordccs.com.ph

A Stable Corrugated Carton Manufacturing Company is currently in need of highly-driven applicants to fill up its vacant positions

❶ SUPERVISORS, Maintenance Department

- ☑ Male, 30 to 42 years old
- ☑ A licensed Mechanical Engineering (for the Mechanical Section)
- ☑ A licensed Electrical Engineering (for the Electrical Section)
- ☑ Knowledge in machine electronics is a definite advantage (especially for electrical engineering position)
- ☑ Troubleshooting/preventive maintenance know-how a must
- ☑ At least 5 years relevant working experience

❷ HEAD, Quality Assurance

- ☑ Male or female, 30 to 40 years old
- ☑ Industrial or Chemical Engineering graduates
- ☑ Knowledgeable and adept in quality assurance practices and procedures
- ☑ Dependable and creative in forming a new and independent quality department for the company
- ☑ At least 5 years relevant working experience

❸ SUPERVISORS/FOREMAN, Corrugating & Converting Sections

- ☑ Male, 30 to 42 years old
- ☑ Mechanical/Industrial Engineering graduates
- ☑ At least 3 years relevant working experience

❹ HEAD OPERATORS, Corrugating & Converting Sections

- ☑ Male, 25 to 35 years old
- ☑ At least college level of any technical course
- ☑ Minimum of 3 years working experience in handling and operating flexo printing or corrugator machine

❺ ASSISTANT OPERATORS, Converting Section

- ☑ Male, 23 to 35 years old
- ☑ At least college level of any technical course
- ☑ Minimum of 1 year working experience in handling and operating flexo printing machine

All qualified and interested applicants may submit their application letter with comprehensive resumé and 2 pcs., 2x2 photos to
SPC Human Resources Department
#5 Tandang Sora Avenue Extension, Sta. Quiteria
Novaliches, Quezon City

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

TRADING & SHIPPING OFFICER

Male or female, not more than 35 years old, graduate of any 4-year course, strong personality, with good command in English and must be computer literate. It will be an advantage if applicants have knowledge in trading and shipping (i.e. monitoring and reporting, documentation, technical executions, decision making, etc.)

Report personally with credentials on June 17-21 from 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM (EXAM dates) at:

New Leyte Edible Oil Mfg. Corp.
19th Floor, The Peak Building
107 Leviste Street, Salcedo Village
Makati City

Look for Mike or call 848-2647 to 50

SALON SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT INC.

MANAGER OF PIANDRE & GEM SALONS NEEDS IMMEDIATELY:

College graduates willing to be trained as

Frontliners, Sales Representatives, and Customer Service Agents

in the diverse field of the beauty salon business.

Join the company that has a total development program for its staff.
Applicants must be female at least 5'1" in height, fluent in English and with pleasing personality.

Please submit resumé together with 2x2 colored picture, Transcript of Records, NBI and Barangay Clearance and SSS Number to:

G/F CSJ Building 105 Aguirre St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 812-4864; 813-0240

THE HERITAGE HOTEL
MANILA

Join a hotel chain that values individualism.

The Heritage Hotel Manila is managed by the Singapore-based Millennium and Copthorne International Limited. Ranked as Asia's largest hotel group, its London-based subsidiaries Millennium and Copthorne Hotels plc, has, under its division, Millennium and Copthorne Hotels and Resorts, a stable of 88 hotels in 15 countries. Sixteen of these hotels are managed by sister subsidiary company, City E-Solutions Limited (CES).

We are now inviting dynamic and dedicated individuals to apply for the position of:

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Requirements:
- Has a degree in Mass Communications, Journalism or any related course from a reputable school
- With at least three (3) years experience in the same position
- Proficient in written and oral communications
- Strong leadership and managerial skills
- Must posses a pleasing personality
- Preferably with press contacts
- Team player, resourceful and creative

Compensation package will commensurate according to the candidate's overall qualification and experience.

Interested parties must submit their application letters, resume (indicating their expected remuneration package) and 2"x2" photo no later than 21 June 2002

The General Manager
The Heritage Hotel Manila
Roxas Boulevard corner EDSA, Pasay City,
Metro Manila, 1300 Philippines
Telephone: (632) 854 8888 Facsimile: (632) 854 8833
E-mail: execoffice@heritagehotelmanila.com

MANAGED BY THE MILLENNIUM & COPTHORNE INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

Senior VB6-SQL Server 2000 developers

Minimum of 3 years working experience on N-tier/ enterprise platforms in a team environment.
Must be proficient with ADO, T-SQL, COM+, Windows 2000, Crystal reports, ASP, .NET experience a plus

Qualified candidates with insurance industry experience highly preferred.

Please email resumés to
vbsql2K@hotmail.com or send to

Philippine Insurance Holding Company
Penthouse, Athenaeum Building
160 L.P. Leviste Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City

DALISAY SHIPPING CORPORATION

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
DEPLOYMENT END JUNE 2002

Chief Officer

Qualifications:
- Male
- Not more than 45 years old
- Experience on **Woodchips Carriers** at least 1-2 years
- With COC and endorsement

Apply in person at Dalisay Shipping Corp.
Suite 1002 Ermita Center Bldg., 1350
Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila
Tel. No. 536-4460 / 528-1664 - 65

PIC CAPT. GUILLERMO I. ABRUGENA

No fees to be collected.
Beware of illegal recruiters

DO YOU MEASURE UP?

A globally known company leading the ranks of the country's most prestigious industry is looking for highly motivated and dynamic individuals who have the passion to succeed!

Qualified candidates must be:

- Graduate of any four year course from reputable schools
- Preferably with 1 to 2 years telemarketing experience
- With pleasant speaking voice
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- With pleasing personality
- At least 5'4" in height for female and 5'8" for male
- Have the drive to excel in the challenging and rewarding world of sales
- Ability to speak Chinese an advantage

Please send resumé with 2x2 colored picture and transcript of records to:

Box 700
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Floor, Building B, SM Megamall
Mandaluyong City

THE PRIME GROUP

Prime Sales, Inc., a marketing company specializing in Materials Handling and Warehousing system, and Prime Panel, Inc., a manufacturer of quality prefabricated insulated building panels, need young, dynamic, aggressive and result oriented individuals to be part of our **SALES & SERVICE TEAM** here in Manila and Cebu office.

SALES REPRESENTATIVES (Male or Female)

- 24-35 years old, hardworking, result oriented with engineering background an advantage
- At least 2 years experience in sales preferably in the field of equipment, construction, instrumentation or other similar industries is an advantage (Fresh graduates also welcome)
- Must possess effective communication skills

For Cebu Candidates (additional requirements)

- Willing to be based in Cebu and can speak the dialect
- Familiar with the key cities in the Visayas and Mindanao region

COORDINATOR/SERVICE CLERK

- Female, 21-30 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course preferably in computer secretarial
- Proficient in MS Word, Excel, Microsoft Access
- Good communication skills (both written & oral)
- Honest & hardworking

Applicants must apply in person from June 17-20, 2002 (Monday - Thursday) 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 nn / 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. for an interview. Bring your comprehensive resumé and come in your business attire.

Successful candidates are assured of the best opportunities available in our industry.

PRIME SALES, INC.
AFP-RSBS Industrial Park
Km. 12 East Service Road
South Super Hi-way corner C-5
Taguig, Metro Manila
Phone No. 839-0106 to 09
E-mail address: prime@i-next.net

IMMEDIATE JOB OPENING AT MAKATI OFFICE

PS Bank Tower
Suite 2104, 21st Floor
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
(Beside Makati Post Office)

WE NEED:

- ☑ College graduates of at least 4-year course from reputable schools and universities
- ☑ Energetic men and women of at least 20-38 years of age
- ☑ Individuals who have a good command of English or Chinese Language
- ☑ Those who are ready to undergo comprehensive company training & can work at once.

THEN YOU DESERVE:

- ☑ **A STARTING PAY OF ABOVE AVERAGE INCOME.**
- ☑ Company sponsored travels (here and abroad)
- ☑ Career development and growth with our automatic promotion system.

See us in your PROPER BUSINESS ATTIRE with 2 pcs. (2x2) ID pictures and your comprehensive resumé on June 17, 18, 19 & 20, 2002 (Monday-Thursday) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. bring extra ID and the clipping of this ad. (Presently employed and enrolled need not apply.)

DAVID'S SALON
THE BEST IN EUROPEAN HAIRDRESSING

Needs

SENIOR HAIRSTYLISTS

For its 2002 expansion program

Applicants must meet the following requirements

- ➢ Male
- ➢ 23-38 years old
- ➢ have at least two years experience as a senior stylist
- ➢ at least be a high school graduate
- ➢ be personable and well-groomed
- ➢ be willing to undergo further training at the DSI Training Center

Applicants may come in their business attire from Mondays to Wednesdays every week, at 9:00 am - 11:30 am, together with their comprehensive resumé and 2x2 picture and other credentials to the address below:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
DAVID'S SALONS INC.
DSI Bldg. 1251 Cardona St.
Poblacion Makati City

Will Decena AND ASSOCIATES
ENGINEERS BUILDERS

Our Company, a construction firm, is in need of:

CIVIL ENGINEERS

Requirements:

Must be licensed
Must have at least 3 years experience in architectural and civil construction
Must have knowledge in estimate works
Must be computer literate
Must be proficient in both oral and written Tagalog and English language
Must be of good moral character
Must not be more than 35 years old

Bring your resumé, 2x2 ID and other credentials and apply at:

84-A 9th Street Near 11th Avenue
Grace Park, Caloocan City
Tel. No. (02) 364-6178

Look for: **Isagani DG Alcantara**

URGENTLY NEEDED!

A company engaged in house design, planning, estimation and research is in need of:

SKILLED COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

Qualifications:

1. Male or Female less than 35 years old
2. Must be a graduate of a two or four-year computer course
3. Must have enough knowledge of VISUAL BASIC and/or ACCESS
4. Should be of good moral character and with self-discipline

Note: All applicants are required to take the actual exam.

Interested applicants may bring their curriculum vitae and credentials with 2x2 picture personally from June 17-21 (Monday to Saturday), 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at:

HRD (S) PTE., LTD.
304B Marbella Manila Bldg.
2071 Roxas Boulevard
Malate, Manila
Tel. No.: 400-6841
Look for: Ms. Finlane Martines

THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR:

1 (One) Bookkeeper

Qualifications:

- Accounting Graduate, 24-33 years old
- Must be computer literate, preferably knowledgeable in ACCPAC
- With at least 3 years of bookkeeping experience in a corporate setting

In addition, candidates must have the following qualities:

- Hardworking, willing to work extended hours, with good follow-through and initiative
- Able to fulfill his/her responsibilities within the prescribed time and with minimal supervision
- Honest and meticulous with his/her work

Applicants may either fax their resumé to 723-1946 or bring their resumé to EMME Group of Companies, 8/F State Finance Center II (beside POEA), Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong, and look for Judy Melitante. All resumés must be in on or before June 24, Monday.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A multi-million manufacturing company is in need of qualified applicant for the position of

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

for the Office of the Chairman/President with the following qualifications:

- ➢ Must be a graduate of any four year course preferably a BS Secretarial Science
- ➢ Must have sufficient knowledge in steno/shorthand and computer operations
- ➢ Must have good oral and written communication skills
- ➢ Pleasing personality

Interested applicants may send their application letter, resumé, transcript of records and recent 2x2 picture on or before June 28, 2002 at P.O. Box 3321.

DALISAY SHIPPING CORPORATION

WANTED

Accounting Staff

Qualifications:

- Male
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
- With good scholastic records
- can work with minimum supervision, reliable and goal oriented
- Not more than 22 years old

Apply in person at

Dalisay Shipping Corp.
Suite 1003 Ermita Center Bldg., 1350
Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila
Tel. No. 528-1661 to 65

PIC: Ms. Marjorie A. Lagundi

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE

- ☒ Female, 20-28 years old, single
- ☒ B.S. Commerce graduate or any four-year course
- ☒ Experienced in the MS Office - must know Word & Excel
- ☒ With or without working experience

IMPORT ASSISTANT

- ☒ Female, 20-28 years old, single, B.S. Customs Administration or college graduate who is efficient in Mathematics, computer literate
- ☒ With experience handling L/C documentation & interfacing with Bank & Foreign Suppliers
- ☒ Knowledge of computing duties & taxes and bank charges

Knowledge of Chinese Language is a definite advantage.

Interest Applicants may call:
Tel. Nos. 363-7514 / 364-1081

EASTERN DRAGON MARKETING, a leading importer and distributor of Hot and Cold Water Dispenser is in need of the following:

SALES EXECUTIVE

- ⇨ Male/Female
- ⇨ 1 to 2 years related experience in selling
- ⇨ Good in written and oral communication
- ⇨ Can work with minimal supervision
- ⇨ Must have a high level of confidence and a great deal of passion for success and career growth
- ⇨ Graduate of Marketing or any business course

COMPENSATION

- Basic salary
- Attractive commission per sale

TELEMARKETER

- ⇨ Female
- ⇨ Graduate of any 4-year course
- ⇨ Good in communication skills
- ⇨ Can work with minimum supervision
- ⇨ 1 year experience in telemarketing

COMPENSATION

- Basic salary

Interested applicants may submit their resumé, transcript of records with 2x2 photo (Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. only) at:

EASTERN DRAGON MARKETING
#5 Esperanza St., Don Pedro Village
Marulas, Valenzuela City
Tel. No. 277-6140 Fax No. 432-1424
or email at: gtomkig@pacific.net.ph

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A DIRECT IMPORTER & DISTRIBUTOR OF CHEMICALS, FOOD AND ANIMAL FEED INGREDIENTS NEEDS **HONEST, HARDWORKING AND HIGHLY COMMITTED TEAMPLAYERS** TO FILL UP THE FOLLOWING SLOTS:

TWO (2) Technical Sales Representatives for Animal Feed Industry
(for Bulacan and Pampanga/Tarlac area)

- 26 to 35 years old, Good Moral Character and with minimum 5 years sales experience in feed amino acids, vitamin & mineral premixes, antioxidants, pellet binders, proteins, and other nutritional products
- Must know how to drive
- Chinese speaking an advantage
- Preferably DVM, BS Animal Husbandry or BS Nutrition graduate
- Results-oriented & can work with minimum supervision

TWO (2) Technical Sales Representatives for Food Industry

- 21 to 28 years old, preferably BS Food Technology or Chemistry graduate
- Experience in Sales or R&D work on blended seasonings, nucleotides & sweeteners for snack food, processed food products or blending/compounding an advantage
- Must know how to drive
- Good Moral Character, results-oriented and can work with minimum supervision.

Competitive compensation package with commission scheme.

Confidentiality of applicants assured.
Please send your application letter, updated resumé, and recent 2x2 picture to:

HRD Manager
PHILCHEMA, INC.
Rm. 603-A Tytana Plaza, Oriente St., Binondo, Manila
or
Email it to: philchema@yahoo.com

WALK-IN APPLICANTS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.

Please e-mail us your resume at callcenter@wardhowell.com.ph, or fax your resume at **816-2929**, or mail it to or drop it at:

5th Floor, The Athenaeum Building, 160 Leviste Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City.
Attn: Call Center Practice Group.

HIRING IMMEDIATELY

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

One of the largest U.S. based call center companies is expanding its international presence and is looking for highly motivated and talented college graduates to work in a state-of-the-art interaction center in the Alabang area. The company has a 30-year history of providing world-class services to multi-national companies. Graduates with excellent communication skills that are excited about joining a great company and becoming key contributors to a fast-growing customer service industry are encouraged to reply.

Customer Service Representatives are to provide online customer service via voice communication on a 24x7 basis.

Qualifications:

- Four year college degree.
- Customer service orientation.
- Excellent English communication & typing skills.
- Willing to work night shifts.

GC Asia Dental invites applicants for

GC Sales Manager for the Phils.

Responsibilities:
1. Planning, organizing & leading all the activities in the Philippine market and be responsible for results
2. Develop short & long-term marketing & sales plans for the GC product range
3. Coordinate with dealers & customers

Requirements:
1. Excellent communication skills; computer literate
2. Assertive, analytical & results-oriented
3. An experience in the dental industry is an advantage
4. Basic managerial skills and experience

Qualified & interested applicants, please e-mail application letter and brief resumé to betsydoc@manila-online.net or fax to 934-0014.

THE BEST

DESERVES ONLY THE BEST

DISTRICT SALES MANAGER - (DSM)

Male, Mature and experienced individual who can handle 8-9 sales representatives. Preferably with background in an advertising company.

SALES REPRESENTATIVES - (SR)

Our search begins with someone who has the passion to succeed in the world of yellow pages and internet sales advertising. College graduate. Ideal candidate must be male with good communication skills and strong self confidence. He must be able to express himself both in English and Filipino with ease. The candidate must be willing to do field work. No experience necessary.

COLLECTORS - (COL)

Preferably with One (1) year related work experience, with good moral conduct, with valid professional driver's license for motorcycle use.

Excellent compensation package awaits the successful candidates which includes above-average financial remuneration, personal development and training.

Please send or hand carry your resume or e-mail us at :

BEST TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES INC.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
7F Salamin Bldg., Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
e-mail : besttel3@broline.com

WANTED

WATER TREATMENT PROCESS/ APPLICATIONS ENGINEER

who will be responsible in the preparation of the design for the following technologies:

- Pretreatment - sand, multimedia
- Membrane system - RO, UF, NF, MF
- Ion Exchange - Softening, demineralization, dealkalization, decarbonization
- Disinfection - UV, Ozone, chlorination

Applicant must be:
- A graduate of B.S. in CHE or related course, with sufficient experience and proficiency in his field of expertise.
- Of good moral character.
- Must be 25-35 years of age.
- Male or Female.

Please send resumé to the following address:

Sterling Fluid Systems Philippines, Inc.
Km. 25 West Service Road, South Superhighway, Alabang, Muntinlupa City

WebFocus Solutions, Inc

A fast rising IT company is looking for the ff:

Account Executives

Responsibilities:
To offer website solutions to different businesses, and organizations

Benefits:
- 6,000 monthly allowance
- Sales commissions of at least 9,000 a month - can be a lot more!
- Opportunities to meet new people from various fields
- Personal growth and excitement in the field of IT

Qualifications:
- 21 to 28 years old, Male or female with a college degree
- Must have field-related sales experience
- Must be aggressive, self-driven, and hardworking
- Good communication skills
- Possesses excellent time-management skills
- Responsible and of good moral character
- Pleasing looks and personality
- Enjoys doing fieldwork

Web Developer

Responsibilities:
To develop websites as required by clients

Benefits:
- Above average package with profit sharing
- Plenty of opportunities for growth and learning

Qualifications:
- Male or female, 21 to 29 years old
- Graduate of a BS Computer Science or related course
- Must have advanced skills in Dreamweaver, Fireworks, Photoshop, Flash, and ASP
- Hardworking, efficient, and of good moral character

Interested Applicants must submit their photo and resumé thru any of the following:
- Email at hrd@webfocus.ph
- Mail to 410 C Del Motne Ave., Quezon City (Attn: Vicky Colargo)

INCOHO

PHILIPPINES, INC.

www.incohoinc.ph

INCOHO is a leading Chicago-based call center operator that is focused on accounts receivable management and outsourced collection services. Our client roster includes an international bank, a telecommunications company, and other global marketing organizations. If you are a self-starter looking for a career opportunity in a call center environment, please send your resumé with a cover letter stating the position that you are applying for and a copy of your transcript of records to hr@incohoinc.ph or to our mailing address below:

Training Manager
- Masters Degree in Business or Communications
- At least (2) two years experience in training preferably in sales or customer-service environment
- Experience in credit and collection is a plus

Team Leaders
- Strong leadership skills
- At least (1) one year work experience in supervising and coaching people, preferably in a customer-contact environment or in a multinational company
- Must have all the qualifications for a Collections Officer position

Collections Officers
- College degree, preferably with a major in Business or Communications
- Highly proficient in English (writing, reading, speaking, and listening skills)
- Excellent communication and typing skills
- Exceptional problem solving and negotiation abilities
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office
- Ability to manage multiple tasks simultaneously
- Willing to work at different time zones

Information Technology Officer
- Information Technology degree with at least 2 years experience in system administration including database management and networking
- Working knowledge of HTML, SQL, and security systems
- Good people skills and problem solving skills
- Willing to travel and work at different time zones

Field Collection Officer
- College degree with some experience in collections
- Aggressive and has a good knowledge of Metro Manila's geography
- Possesses the energy and perseverance to work in the field independently

Administrative Assistant
- Excellent encoding and secretarial skills
- Can handle multi-tasking in a fast-paced working environment

Qualified candidates will be asked to complete the following:
- Multi-media test in English language proficiency
- Problem solving and negotiation skills tests
- Interview in key competency areas
- Reference and background checks

For the successful candidates, we offer the following:
- Highly competitive salary PLUS performance-based incentives and bonus
- Medical and dental insurances
- Comprehensive and ongoing training programs
- Working environment that is dynamic, friendly, and highly respectful of the individual

Mailing address: **Director, Recruitment and Training**
3F HutchAsia Global City Center
31st Street corner Second Avenue
e-Square IT Park, Bonifacio S.E.Z.
Taguig City, Metro Manila

RCMagno Group of Companies

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
- Male BS Marketing Graduate
- Aggressive and Hardworking
- Driving Skills / License is a plus factor

ACCOUNTING CLERK / STOCKMAN
- Male BS Accounting Graduate
- With High Scholastic Records
- Experience in Warehouse/Stock Inventory is plus factor

GRAPHIC ARTIST
- Fine Arts Graduate or equivalent experience as Graphic Artist
- Proficient with Adobe Photoshop, Corel Draw, and other Graphics Software

PART-TIME COMPUTER PROGRAMMER
- Computer Science Graduate
- With at least 3 years work-related experience

TELEPHONE OPERATORS / TELEMARKETERS
- Female, single, not more than 28 years old
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Computer literate

WELDERS
- 5 years experience in Metal Crafts/Steel Fabrication
- Knowledge in all types of Welding Operation

Apply in person at:

CHROME DAZZLER ENTERPRISES
67 P. Tuazon Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City
Bring Resumé and other Credentials

ADTX

ADTX Systems, Inc. (formerly APTI-Philippines, Inc.) is a *Research and Development* Company and an affiliate of **IBM Japan, Ltd.**

Research & Development is a way of life in ADTX Systems, Inc. We encourage our people to challenge present technologies to come up with better ones. In the highly volatile I.T. industry, we strive to be among the leaders to drive its growth and direction, anticipating the next stages of technology evolution.

We are involved in:
- Microcode Development for Laser and High-Speed Impact Printers, and POS Terminals.
- Software Applications, Device Drivers, POS, Middleware and Network Software Development.
- Quality Assurance Services
- Application Specific IC (ASIC) and Hardware Development

We are looking for Highly Motivated and Experienced:

SOFTWARE Engineers

Main Job: Customer requirement analysis, design and development of software applications

Qualifications:
- 2-3 years industry experience in software development using Visual C++ and Java under Linux/AIX environment
- Full knowledge of Windows 9X/NT/2000 environment
- Must be knowledgeable in Websphere, DB2
- Knowledge of other web-related technologies is an advantage

All applicants must be graduates of Computer Science, Computer Engineering, BS ECE, or other 4-5 years computer related course, Not more than 30 years old. Japanese Language ability is an advantage. Candidates must possess Strong Leadership Skills, Solid Interpersonal Communication Skills, and must be a Team Player.

Compensation and Benefits:
- Outstanding opportunities to work with Top Multinational IT Companies Worldwide
- Attractive remuneration package and career advancement
- Japanese Language Training
- Opportunities to travel overseas

We are now hiring for our Alabang Office. Applicants may send their application letter, resume, transcript of records and 2x2 ID picture and supporting credentials to P.O Box 187, Ayala-Alabang Post Office, 1799, Muntinlupa City or Email: *jobs@adtxsystems.com* (text format only)

Homepage URL: *http://www.adtxsystems.com*

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away. JOBMarket ONLINE www.jobmarketonline.com

A DOCUMENT PROCESSING CENTER FOR THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION INVITES APPLICANTS FOR THE POSITION OF:

WORD PROCESSORS/ENCODERS

(DAY AND NIGHT SHIFTS)

- ☑ male or female
- ☑ college graduate from reputable schools
- ☑ excellent English communications and typing skills
- ☑ highly computer literate with knowledge in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Photoshop and PageMaker
- ☑ willing to be assigned to different shifts
- ☑ experience with recorders and transcribers preferred
- ☑ experience in desktop publishing, advertising and production of marketing materials a plus

Qualified applicants may submit their resumé, 2x2 picture, and other credentials to (please indicate current salary):

THE OFFICE MANAGER
11th Floor Pacific Star Building
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue
Makati City

Jobsonline.com.ph

Comtech Solutions
Visual Basic/.Net Programmers (Code:2058)
Magellan Manufacturers Marketing Corp.
Product Designer (Code:2053)
INFOStorage Corporation
Account Manager (Code:2063)
OFS Furniture Inc.
Sales/Account Executive (Code:2048)
Unlimited Solutions Corporation
Systems Engineer (Code:2049)
Fibercom T. Phils., Inc.
Account Manager (Code:2054)
Promax International Philippines
Animal Nutritionist (Code:2057)
KIDZWORLD, Inc.
Sales Managers (Code:2077)
Vision 8 Systems, Inc.
Payroll Operations Staff (Code:2081)
Winners Industrial Engineering & Tech Services
Mechanical Sales Engineer (All Around) (Code:2060)
Sales Executive/Marketing Manager (Code:2061)
SL Temps, Inc.
Accountants/Accounting Staff (Code:2064)
Exec. Secretaries/Junior Secretaries (Code:2065)
Customer Service Rep/Counter Sales Asst (Code:2066)
Front Desk Clerk/Receptionists (Code:2070)
Sales Consultants (Code:2071)
Consolidated Industrial Gases, Inc. (CIGI)
Customer Service Officer (Code:2082)
CHRYSARA
Costing Officer/Merchandiser (Code:2085)
Production Supervisor for Finishing (Code:2083)

For more job info and how to apply, Text JOB INFO <code> to 2333 on Globe phone. Ex. send JOB INFO 2058 to 2333 or visit www jobsonline com ph for more jobs

Employers Contact 927-0734 / ads@jobsonline.com.ph

Beluso-Soriano Group of Co.

2 Weeks Grand Job Hiring!!!

In cooperation of AVP's,Managers and company staff s

50 Ex-OFW from Taiwan, Saudi, Middle East, Japan, Hongkong, US, etc. recently arrived (Sept. 2001-May 2002) are welcome to apply.

Available Positions:
Junior Managers, Account Managers,
Management Trainees, Account Executives, company staffs, etc,

73 GRADUATES OF:PT,OT,RT.,Nursing & any MEDICAL courses
68 GRADUATES OF:IE,ECE,EE,ME,Archi,ComEng,ComSci,etc.
53 GRADUATES OF:Commerce,LLB,HRM,Tourism,Educ & BScourses

Male / Female, 19-45 years old, licensed or non-licensed
Fresh Graduates are welcome to apply!!!

All interested applicants may apply personally with comprehensive resume, original credentials & 2x2 photo on June 17-29,2002 in proper bus. attire at:

Office of the Director

Suite 003, Ground Flr., Building #235 EDSA EXT'N PASAY CITY
Walking distance from MRT Taft along EDSA, going to Roxas Blvd., near Savers Square Dept.Store, beside Allied Bank & Jianshe)

Look for: Mr. Alex ,PTRP/GSM

Note:Staple this ad to your resume!!!

A LEADING LAW FIRM INVITES APPLICANTS FOR THE POSITION OF:

LEGAL SECRETARY

- female, not more than 30 years of age
- computer literate, with excellent typing speed
- disciplined, responsible, hardworking, systematic, and organized
- with good written and oral communication skills
- preferably with related experience

Qualified applicants may submit their resumé, 2x2 picture, and other credentials to:

THE OFFICE MANAGER
11th Floor, Pacific Star Building
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue
Makati City

Please indicate position applied for.

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Administrative Assistant

Are people amazed at your ability to do everything at once?

Well, work for us as Administrative Assistant and you'll have an audience that won't just be amazed, we'll be very appreciative.

We're looking for someone who can keep two Management Executives on track and focused.

The ideal candidate brings a positive, high-energy attitude and superior communication skills, A Bachelor's degree in business, or HR, along with 3+ years of hands-on experience. Flexibility, creativity, and strong computer skills are essential. Preferably female, 24 to 34 years old.

We can't wait to meet you. Mail or deliver your resumé to:

No. 70, 20th Avenue,
Murphy, Quezon City
or fax it to 913-0105 or e-mail to
mbc_tasco@philwebinc.com

BE PART OF OUR TEAM!

Virtual Video Net Inc., a master franchisee of **Video City** is now inviting new applicants who are confident, extremely enthusiastic and persistent to learn, to show us their potentials and skills so that these may be harnessed to the fullest.

Young individuals living within **Marikina, Cavite** and **Laguna** are highly needed to fill the positions of **TEAM MEMBERS** and **MANAGEMENT TRAINEES.**

TEAM MEMBER

- 18 - 22 years old
- Male or Female
- Full time employee
- At least college level
- With pleasing and dynamic personality
- Willing to do a multi tasking job
- Experience in customer related field is an advantage

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE

- 20 - 23 years old
- Male or Female
- Graduate of 4-year business-related course
- Full time employee
- With at least 1 year experience in customer related field is an advantage
- Willing to do a multi tasking job
- Single or married

If you think you've got what it takes to be a part of this team then send us your resumés and bio-data with contact numbers at the following Video City stores:

VIDEO CITY - MARIKINA
JNL BLDG., UNO BAYAN-BAYANAN AVENUE, CONCEPCION MARIKINA CITY

VIDEO CITY - LAGUNA
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VIDEO CITY - CAVITE
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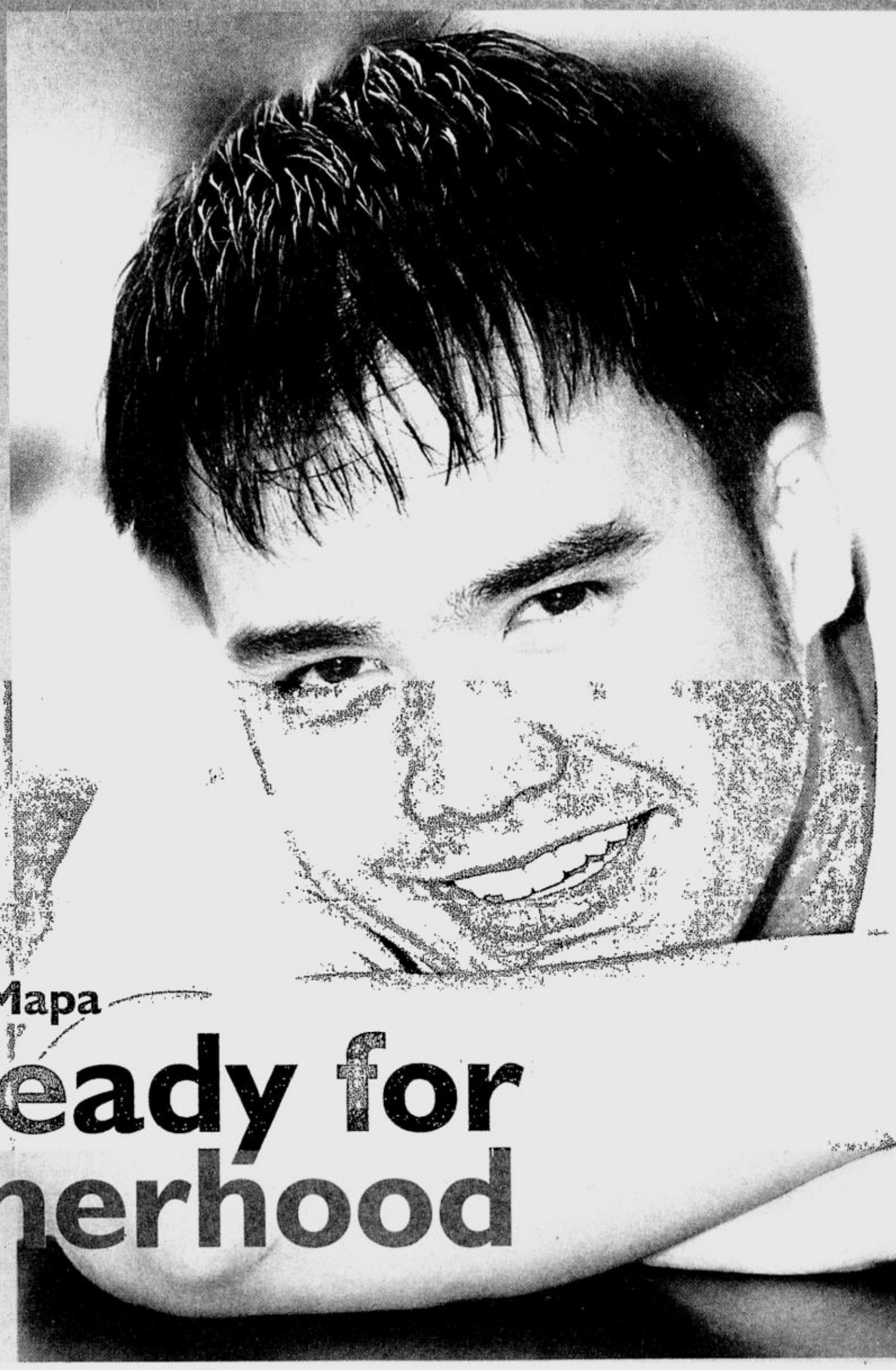
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

June 16, 2002



A dual character in a star-studded soap is only one of many opportunities ahead in Jao Mapa's revived career. But for the earnest young actor, it's being a father that might just prove to be the role of a lifetime

Jao Mapa

Ready for Fatherhood

By Joy Rojas
Photograph by August dela Cruz

THERE was no script or second take to prepare 25-year-old actor Jao Mapa and his girlfriend Cecille, 21, for the news that they were going to have a baby. The positive result of a home pregnancy test left the couple frozen for what seemed like an eternity. Unsure and afraid at the onset, the two "went through a lot of stuff. But in the end," says Jao, "I said, man, I'm going to be a father!"

It's a role that suits him, judging from how he's managed since that fateful, jaw-dropping day some five months ago. Now, not only does this dad-to-be dutifully take the mother of his child to her monthly doctor's appointments, he's also promised to keep her company when she delivers their baby either in late August or early September. "I'll probably be waiting outside the operating room," he shrugs with a smile. "I don't know if I can take it, but I told her that I'm going to be there. Responsibility is not just a word. You find out your threshold and how much you can handle. It's kind of addicting but it's also very hard. You grow up, it's a wake-up call."

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...from page 1

Art is another indication that the actor is taking the prospect of parenthood to heart. Once filled with rapidly rendered illustrations of the common man, his sketchbook now includes expressionist charcoal drawings of father and child ("*Mag-ama*"), a profile of a pregnant woman ("*Mag-ina*"), and mango slices on a chopping board ("*Pagkain Para Sa Naglilihi*"). A sentimental guy given to penning lyrics and poetry on the spot, he writes, "*Sa susunod, ako naman ang bibigay, pag humingi ka iniisip mo pa lang, gagawin ko na*" (Next time I'll do the giving; even while you think it, it shall be done), in a love song to Cecille. But if there's one aspect of fatherhood that gets his creative juices flowing, it's what to name the baby: Amber Maria if it's a girl, Manolo Orin if it's a boy. "Orin's kinda cool. It's like a 'Lord of the Rings' kind of name," he explains with a chuckle. "We were also thinking of Orin Cornelius because my grandfather's name is Cornelio."

Of course, naming the baby after Jao's own father, Bank of Commerce executive Tito Modesto Mapa, is a thought, but if other suggestions should prevail, Jao intends at least to adapt his dad's unique style of parenting. The actor recalls an incident when he and his younger brother, the musician Diego, were sick but too stubborn to take their medicine, much to editor-mom Tess' chagrin. "So my dad comes in, so cool with the medicine bottles and says, 'Okay kids, watch this.' And then he starts singing and making the bottles dance like cartoons!" laughs Jao. "He's a very loving, peaceful man. He's like a guru in that his insights in life are very deep and beautiful. And he loves kids. I don't expect to top my father. I just want to keep on loving and be there."

Love offerings: Jao's charcoal sketches reflect his thoughts on impending fatherhood

Parenthood, however, was not solely responsible for the actor's present state of calm and candor. In 2000, amidst a carefully-crafted, seven-year showbiz career that included high-profile appearances on television ("*Palibhasa Lalake,*" "ASAP"), films ("*Pare Ko,*" "*Hataw Na,*" "*Maalaala Mo Kaya,*" "Asero"), music, and commercials (Pepsi, Beverly Hills 90210 apparel), Jao suddenly decided to call it quits. The fine arts major at the University of Santo Tomas cited his long-overdue thesis as his reason for leaving, but the noticeable weight loss coupled with his temperamental outbursts on location spun ugly rumors of drug addiction and his parents' split up. "Man, they said I was the one who promoted Ecstacy, and I haven't even tried it!" he exclaims incredulously. What really happened, he finally admits, was a simple case of burn out. "I was doing too much. *Oo na lang ako nang oo, sige na lang nang sige, banat nang banat* (I kept saying yes, kept going and going). *Biglang*, boom! I got fed up and snapped."

Though involved in only one TV soap at the time, his exit was a messy one that left many hurt and wondering what became of the down-to-earth guy. "Those seven years were good years. I have no regrets," he reflects. "I'm not saying I'm glad with the way it turned out, but I guess that's just part of it. That's how I played it. Now I'm taking things step by step and learning from my mistakes."

Away from the glare of showbiz's spotlight, the actor earned a 1.25 grade for his thesis, a total advertising campaign for Adidas football. He also appeared in Quark Henares' short film "A Date With Jao Mapa," apprenticed for a photographer, illustrated for Woman's Home Companion where his mom is editor in chief, exhibited his paintings twice and visited relatives in the United States. Ironically, despite shirking show business, Jao remained a celebrity in everyone's eyes. Recognized even in LA, he gamely posed for pictures and obliged when asked to sing at a food charity. "Yeah, that's what friends say," he chuckles in retrospect. "It's like I never left."

A decision to return to show business in 2002 saw the Urian-nominated actor guest in a slew of talk shows at the beginning of the year. His subsequent appearances, coincidentally in *kontrabida* parts, in the TV series "*Kasangga*" and "*Kakabakaba?*" are signs that the actor has clearly evolved from his goofy, Gwaping image. While still very picky over acting assignments, he's eager for more dynamic and challenging roles, like a dual character he's set to portray in the forthcoming GMA-7 soap "*Hawak Ko Ang Langit*" that includes Assunta De Rossi, Jomari Yllana, Ana Capri, Epi Quizon, Rustom Padilla and Jake Roxas. Looks like this talented actor and first-time father appears ready for his own career rebirth. "I'm cautious. Observant. Still *burara*," he says with a laugh. "But I'm trying to make my own decisions. Taking full responsibility for my actions. You know, I used to be a real party-goer and loud person. Now I'm just playing it cool."

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The Cover Image For Jao Mapa, fatherhood might be the role of a lifetime *Photograph by August dela Cruz*

Poetry

Wednesday

It's instinct I suppose
or habit that lures us
to look upwards at night
and reach towards the stars.
What our hands could not hold,
we reach for with our sight.
Sweeping across
this vast expanse of space,
our eyes follow
the radiant nucleus
where waves of light
undulate towards
a blinding apogee.
Yet like our eyes,
we only grasp fragments
of that mild implosion
and so we come back
each night,
eager for more.
Our intimations of stars,
bring us closer to them.
That sometimes I wonder
what would we look up to
after we've reached the stars?

Jeanie B. Nieva

sa higaan

Kay egmm

sa higaan na 'sing lawak ng karagatan ko nilangoy
ang saysay ng dalas ng mga yakap at halik mo
na puspos ng paglalambing na 'di itinuro
sa higaan na 'sing tahimik ng karagatan ko sinisid
ang katuturan ng katahimikan ng iyong pag-idlip
na likas sa pasipiko ang ligamgam ng dibdib
sa higaan na 'sing dalisay ng karagatan ko pinalutang
ang inipon kong pagmamahal nang kung ilang taon
na sinagot mo ng walang katapusang pag-alon.
at sa pag-iisa ko ngayon sa higaan tila karagatan nalaman
na ang katahimikan, kalawakan at kadalisayan
na ating pinagsaluhan ay may hangganan.

Nonon Carandang

Pagsisid

pinilit kong pumalaot
upang mayakap
ang daluyong sa iyong dibdib
na kahit ang kati at taog ng pag-alon
ay sinabayan
maski mahirap languyin
na kahit tinangay man sa dalampasigan
nang ilang ulit
at kahit mga mata'y napapaluha na
sa sobrang alat ng iyong damdamin
kumampay pa rin
marating lamang ang pusod
ng iyong puso
subalit,
sobrang lalim pala
nasabi ko na lang sa yo
hindi, mababaw lang ito
ang tugon mo lang
kaya muntik na akong takbuhan ng hininga
nang sinisid ko ang perlas
akala ko tuluyan na akong malulunod
nang kagyat mo itong ipininid
naipit tuloy ang kamao ko
at nasugatan nang ako'y papalayong tumalilis
hindi ko akalain
natatanuran ka pala ng isang pating
muntik nang humalo ang pula sa bughaw
buti na lang may hanging tumangay sa akin
sa tabing-dagat
at doon ko napagtanto
isa ka palang mamahaling perlas
na hindi madaling makukuha
ng pipitsuging maninisid
tulad ko.

Cor Marie Villojan

The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>

Twists of Fate
By Raul J. Palabrica

Waiting to Get Her Life Back

Family ties: Grace Serapio with daughter Nicole and husband Ed: "We walk with heads unbowed."

IN THE last day of her novena to the Holy Infant Jesus of Prague, Grace Reyes-Serapio learned that the Sandiganbayan had ordered the arrest of her husband, lawyer Edward Serapio, for the crime of plunder together with former President Joseph Estrada and his son Jinggoy.

At 8 p.m. that day, April 25, 2001, Serapio, accompanied by his wife and lawyers, gave himself up to Philippine National Police Chief Leandro Mendoza at Camp Crame.

Since then, more than a year later, Serapio has been detained in a converted office of the PNP Central Intelligence and Detection Group.

Somehow, Grace had an inkling that her husband would get into legal trouble when then Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson bared Estrada's alleged links to *jueteng* operations in the country. In the course of Singson's revelation, he named Serapio as the person who received P200 million in *jueteng* money for one of Estrada's projects, the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation.

No regrets: Serapio at his hearing

The publicity that attended the impeachment trial did not escape the attention of Grace's seven-year-old daughter Nicole. Even without coaching from her adult companions, the precocious girl knew all was not well with her father.

"I made her avoid television and newspapers. I did not want her to see these personalities whom her Dad admired, worked for, studied law with, maligning or shouting at her Dad. I did not allow her to see me in tears or hear me pouring out my heartaches to someone," Grace remembers.

While she anticipated that her husband would be implicated, one way or the other, in the crimes that were being imputed to Estrada, Grace was hopeful that the most Edward would be charged with was the crime of "accessory to indirect bribery."

The filing of plunder charges against her husband shocked Grace. She could not cry upon learning of the filing of the case. What came foremost to her mind was how to shield her daughter from the pain she felt. She tried to console herself by looking at the situation as something God planned for them for a still unclear purpose.

To prepare her daughter for the expected arrest and detention of her father, Grace told Nicole that "her Dad would be going away for sometime but we would still get to see him. Her Dad is not a bad person; neither are the people who would want to see him detained. Her Dad and these people just did not agree on something."

Grace believes she was able to convince Nicole not to harbor ill feelings for the people responsible for Serapio's detention. But Grace thinks her daughter "could still sense how much I miss Ed and how much it pains me to live a life without him. Nicole told someone that she is terribly saddened by what happened but she cannot discuss how she felt with me because she did not want to give me more pain."

The psychological trauma that Nicole went through as a result of her father's detention took its toll on her health for three months. During that time, she had difficulty eating and experienced abdominal pains. Her doctors, however, saw nothing wrong with her physically.

Upon a child psychologist's advice, Grace gave her daughter more room to indulge in the activities she liked. Today, Nicole has adjusted to the situation and gotten back to the regular stream of her daily school and play activities.

In the meantime, Grace has made adjustments in her life to prevent her husband's detention from becoming a dysfunctional element in their family.

Every afternoon, without fail, she and Nicole see Serapio at Camp Crame. The visit enables him to continue to bond with his daughter and tutor her in math and science. After dinner, they pray the rosary before calling it a day.

The place Serapio temporarily calls home is approximately eight square meters. It does not have any windows. He is allowed the use of an existing air-conditioning unit. In that room are an office table, a chair and a folding bed. He uses the common office toilet and bath for his personal needs.

Grace Reyes-Serapio, wife of ex-Estrada lawyer Edward, is counting the days and novenas until her husband comes home

Last year's Christmas and New Year festivities were non-events in the Serapio family. They observed the occasions under circumstances they have not imagined or experienced before.

Looking back, Grace wonders, "Did Christmas and New Year ever come last year? We will celebrate them when Ed comes home. A Jesuit priest and I made a pact that the moment Ed gets out, we will set up the Christmas tree and decorations at home. If that happens tomorrow, in September or any time, it will be Christmas for us."

But life has to go on in spite of the adversities that have come Grace's way. She continues to work as an interior designer with two other partners, and their projects have remained steady.

Aside from single-handedly attending to the personal needs of Nicole in their house, Grace has to fit into her schedule their daily visit to Camp Crame and meetings with Serapio's lawyers to plan the strategy to, first, convince the Sandiganbayan to allow him to post bail and, second, to gain his acquittal from the plunder charges.

Significantly, Grace does not consider herself a "single parent," although Serapio has been under detention for quite some time. "We still share in the duties and responsibilities of being parents even though he is not home. We walk with heads unbowed and we can look at people in the eye."

When asked about her husband's thoughts on finding himself in trouble because of his association with Estrada, Grace says, "My husband does not regret having worked with Erap. He believes that all things considered, Erap was a good president and a good man."

From all indications, Serapio is in a for a long wait in his fight to be allowed to post bail while his case is being heard by the Sandiganbayan. The Ombudsman has thrown all kinds of obstacles imaginable to his motion, and appears to be succeeding in the effort.

The petition for bail he filed with the Supreme Court is still pending. The Sandiganbayan and the highest tribunal seem to be too preoccupied with the Estradas to remember that there is another person in the case who is also entitled to their attention.

Despite these problems, Grace remains optimistic about the future. She has left everything to God. "I completely submit to what He wants for me, my husband and my daughter. We still feel blessed in spite of what most people think."

She is confident that, "in God's time, we will get back our life."

No matter how long the case takes or whichever way it goes, Grace Serapio is standing by her man.

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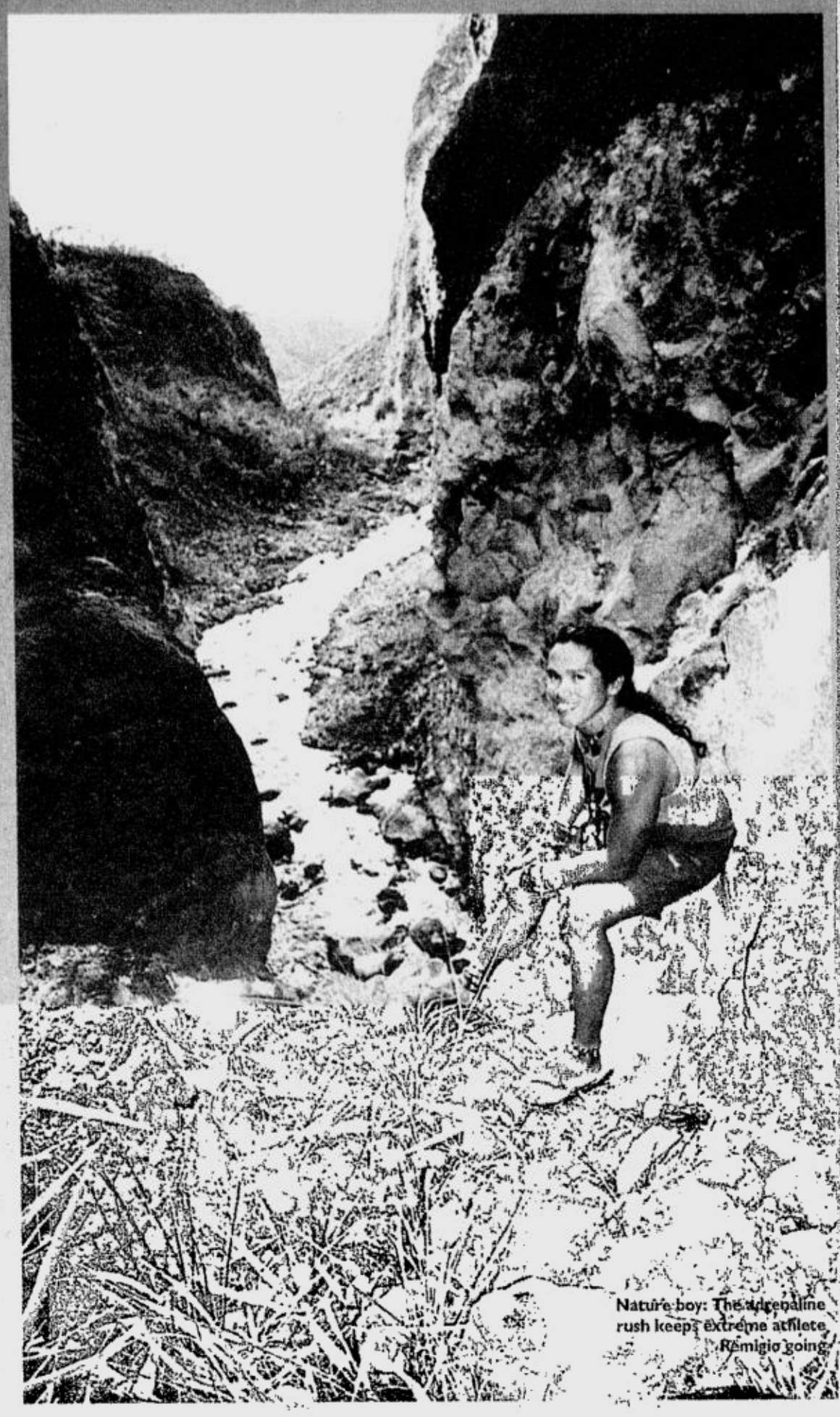
Adventurers

By Gina Abuyuan-Llanes
Photographs by Jude Thaddeus L. Bautista

Racing Against Himself

For extreme athlete Thumbie Remigio, adventure racing is not just his sport of choice, but the closest he can get to God



Nature boy: The adrenaline rush keeps extreme athlete Remigio going

THUMBIE Remigio, 28, sounds like he's giving a mini geography and anthropology lesson when talking about his beads: China, Thailand, Germany, he points out. The T'bolis, Manobos, Mangyans. "This one's part of the race pack. It's supposed to counter spells and witchcraft." He's talking about a black plastic tube containing a red-colored oil. The origin of the bracelet? Siquijor.

With the diligence of a warrior, Thumbie keeps them on his wrists and ankles to commemorate adventures. He never gives the beads away, and never takes them off.

Thumbie's been around—quite literally, all over mountains and rock faces and gorges and rivers. In the muscle-toned, Mojo-shod circle of outdoor enthusiasts, he's regarded as the top adventure racer in the country today, both as an athlete and as an organizer/director. A tough feat, especially for someone who's never had any formal training in sports.

What Thumbie's got plenty of instead, are guts and wanderlust. He's been giving in to them since he was a kid. "I'd grab at every chance to travel," Thumbie says in Filipino. It started when he joined the boy scouts. "I gained my sense of independence through my outdoor experiences. I learned to take care of myself and to survive on my own."

The wanderlust continued in college, where he joined UP Mountaineers and UP Org. Even when he was already a registered nurse at the Makati Medical Center, Thumbie just couldn't stop. "I would go to the beach or hie off to the mountains even if my hospital bosses wouldn't allow me to go on leave."

The nursing job was shot. When Thumbie came back to Manila, he tried to study to become a doctor. He also took up masters in nursing and tried to take supplemental studies for the NMAT. Months short of getting the degree, another opportunity to travel came, this time to Banawe. "I've sacrificed a lot of things because of my lifestyle, but everything always seemed to point in this direction. I've tried other paths, but I've always taken a turn towards here."

Thumbie taught courses at PowerUp. "I took a risk; mountaineering wasn't popular then. There was no career in it, so how would I make a living?"

Here's how: by trying every conceivable adventure sport there is and doing extremely well in each. Adventure racing, which is set outdoors with all the elements of nature and the environment, has become the most popular sporting activity today. For Thumbie, it beckons as his true destiny.

"When adventure racing was introduced here, we had an advantage, even if we weren't excellent athletes," the guy says. "We were already using the skills we were used to practising. I performed well in my first race and that got me started. I took my training seriously and started getting invited to international competitions. Eventually my own team began to represent the Philippines."

Since he began early, Thumbie's experience was tapped in the organizational aspect of the activity. He's directed major races such as the Del Monte Outdoor Quest; Bantay Kalikasan Adventure Race at the La Mesa Dam; the last series of Urban Jungle adventure races in Manila, Cebu and Baguio; and Defy the Limits in Iloilo, among others. As a participant, what stand out in his memory are the dragon boat races in Singapore and Australia; the Urban Jungle Adventure Race in 1998 and 1999; Action Asia Adventure Challenges in Taiwan, Hongkong, and the Philippines; and the 2001 Action Asia AXN qualifying race in Subic.

Every team is as good as its leader, and Thumbie's got the grit to lead his team through the most unlikely locales and push its members to their limits. "Adventure racing involves training in a very wide range of sporting activities. You have to swim, run, trek, rappel, traverse, know caving, kayaking, paddling. Your attitude must be competitive. You want to win and perform well in everything."

The strength that counts the most, though, lies in the mind and will: "Other multi-sport activities, like triathlons and duathlons, are set in an urban setting and can be done in a day. But adventure racing requires a minimum three days straight, nonstop action. If you want to sleep, it's up to you, you can lose because you get sleepy. There are a lot of factors involved. You need discipline and mental toughness to endure all of these things that you don't usually do."

He continues: "Psyche yourselves up. Say, 'I've been training hard for this, and I'm gonna do it, and whatever happens I will not quit.' "

With extreme adventures come extreme risks, and Thumbie has had his lion's share of them as well. "I don't know if I'm a cat—I have so many lives!" he kids. His accidents, however, are no laughing matter: a 45-foot fall from a rock face in Puerto Galera, which resulted in a gash in his foot and lower back injuries ("my lower body went numb and I vomited blood. I had to be transported by banca to the mainland"); a dislocated shoulder from a mountain bike crash in Guimaras (he continued the race with his arm in a sling); a 15-foot fall from a rock in Montalban, where he landed on another rock which missed his spine by less than an inch.

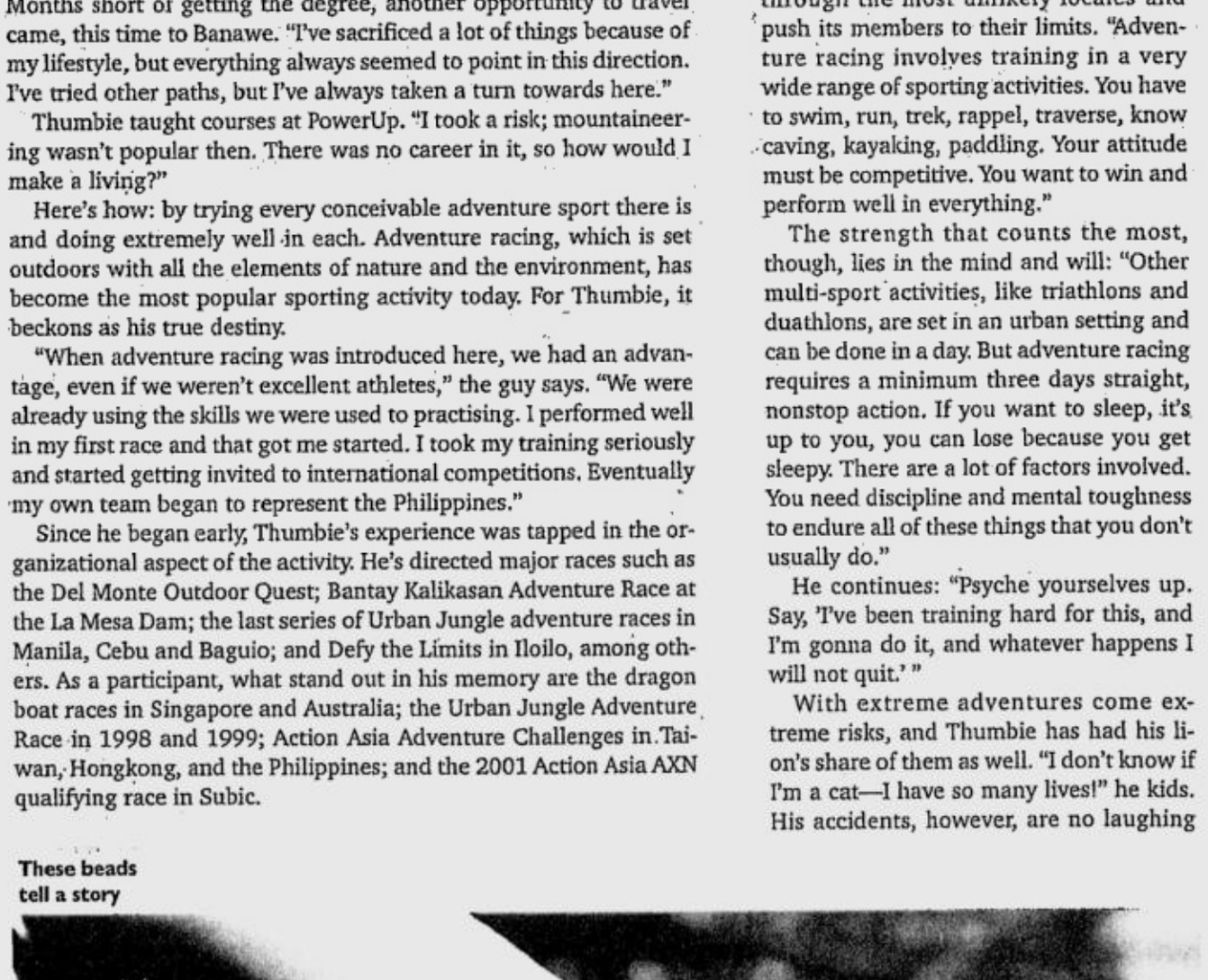
The element of danger is just another attraction for this adventure seeker. "Sometimes, that's my motivating factor, the fear of the unknown. But I'm more careful now than before, unlike when I was younger and too impulsive and aggressive."

What's next for Thumbie? His dream race, as a director and as a participant, may just come true in November, on a course he's currently mapping in Pinatubo. "It will be the first Filipino adventure festival," he explains. "It's going to be big. Four to five days of activities that will cater to all athletes and participants. One extreme adventure race that will cover three provinces—Zambales, Tarlac, and Pampanga—which will end in Subic. Outdoor clinics. Trade fairs for local outdoor gear manufacturers, so people can see what products are now available in the Philippines. A travel expo to the different regions of the Philippines to promote their tours and products."

This dream project is in collaboration with DOT Product Research and Development head Warner Andrada, and expects to draw in participants from Macau, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, and China (for more info, you can contact Thumbie at 0916-3858322). And more than the fun and excitement of an activity of such magnitude, it may just nudge the government to elevate adventure racing as a recognized sport in the country, and gain due support for its role in increasing environmental awareness and eco-tourism.

"It's the personal satisfaction, the adrenaline rush, that keeps me here," Thumbie reflects. "It's spiritually fulfilling when you get to places no one's ever been to before. I feel that I'm closer to God than when I'm inside the church. When you're with nature—and everything's quiet, no noise, no pollution, you're just by yourself—all you had to endure before you get to that place is instantly forgotten."

These beads tell a story



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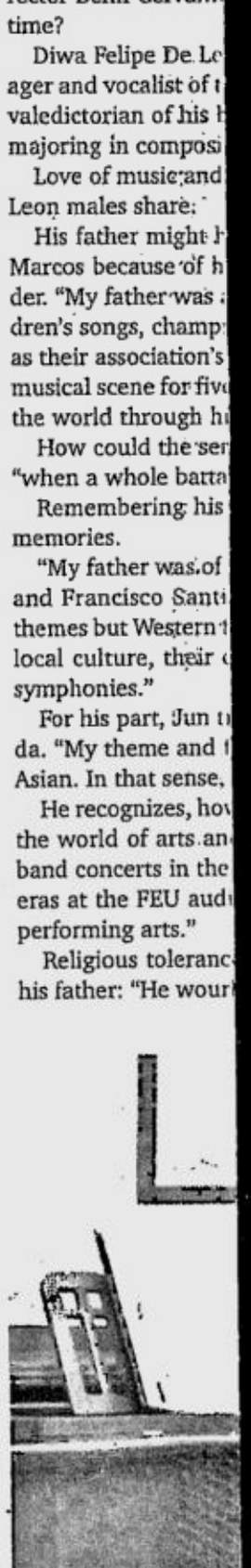

by music

Despite different musical tastes, Jun and Diwa De Leon share a bond that goes beyond their being father and son

Happy household: Diwa, Dawani and Jun de Leon

ne name and, not surprisingly, the same musical nifested themselves through three generations. is son Jun de Leon and Jun's son Diwa have en- in various ways and at different junctures of his-

he late national artist for music, wrote the operas l "*El Filibusterismo*" based on Dr. Jose Rizal's con- rasterpieces. During the Martial Law years, his mn" and "*Bagong Pagsilang* March" filled the re- ntry that initially believed the prospects of a new s time, his "*Pasko Na Naman*" and "*Noche Buena*" heer.

d the University of the Philippines' Department of '6 to 1982. Not too many people know it, but this e culture in the lecture circuit set to music the po- nd nationalist writer *Ka* Amado Hernandez, which of the turbulent times during the First Quarter Os. Who from that generation does not remember *layan*" which Jun composed at the request of di- s who had just come down from the hills at that

on, Jun's eldest son, is better known as the man- he Makiling Ensemble, a band he co-founded. The atch at the Philippine High School for the Arts is ion at the UP College of Music.

respect for each other are other traits that the De

ave been briefly identified with ousted President s Bagong Lipunan songs, but Jun defends his el- genius," he says of the man who composed chil- oned the intellectual rights of Filipino composers president for 20 years, wrote a column about the decades, and promoted Philippine music all over s Himig ng Lahi musical group.

ior De Leon refuse the Marcos request, Jun asks, lion came to pick him up?"

father as a musician dredges up more pleasant

that generation that came after Nicanor Abelardo ngo. They all produced music that had Filipino orms. While their music had subjects typical of the ompositions were sonatas, piano concertos and

aces his influence to the musicologist Jose Mace- orm totally shifted to being Filipino or Southeast my father and I differed."

vever, that it was his father who introduced him to l culture. "At an early age, he would bring us to provinces, at the same time that we watched op- rorium, which was then a thriving center for the

was something that Jun absorbed as well from d bring us to the lectures of the Theosophical So-

ciety, the séances at the residence of sculptor Guillermo Tolentino, who was a leader of the *Union de Espiritistas*, then to the Buddhist temples, and services at the Aglipay Church. It was his way of showing us that God did not favor a chosen people, race or creed."

Diwa, on the other hand, is more than his father's son; his is a personality shaped as much by his mother, gender activist Anna Leah Sarabia.

His parents met during the First Quarter Storm, which Jun describes as "romantic days." In fact, he adds, "to many it was not for a political or ideological commitment that they manned the barricades. They were there because everyone else was."

Definitely, he and Anna were there for a cause, says Jun, as they both believe in "education as a liberating tool, and arts and culture as expressive of the Filipino spirit that is inherently free." He met Anna in one of those rallies. She wrote poetry. She majored in anthropology. How could he not fall in love with her?

After a brief visit to the stockade, Jun proposed marriage, a proposal similarly rushed by De Leon Sr.'s insistence that his eldest child settle down. After all, he was already 33, and financially independent as a faculty member of the University of the Philippines. Says Jun: "Music, according to my father, was '*hanap patay*.'" The couple named their eldest son Diwa, for "essence." "He is Diwa Felipe because he is the very essence of Felipe," says Jun who will soon publish his dictionary of Filipino names. Diwa, whose name

To page 7

De Leon: The Filipino spirit is inherently free

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Noteworthy

Lessons from the Tide

Red tide in the popular marine sanctuary of Balayan Bay raises alarm over continuing abuse of the oceans

ON the morning of June 6, the community of Balayan Bay woke up to hundreds of dead fish lining a two-kilometer stretch of coastline between the towns of Mabini and Lemery in Batangas. Initial findings showed abnormally high water temperatures of 33 degrees Celsius and a profusion of single-cell algae. Patches of red film on the water prompted officials to suspect red tide. Within 48 hours, the red area had spread, extending for seven kilometers.

Water samples collected by the monitoring group—composed of local authorities of the municipal government of Mabini, representatives from BFAR, the Philippine Coast Guard, Coral Cay, Bantay Dagat, PGENRO and WWF-Philippines—indicated the presence of marine plankton.

Red tides are caused by the explosive growth and accumulation of microscopic algae in coastal waters. Some species of algae produce toxins that cause extensive fish kills, contaminate shellfish and create severe respiratory irritation to humans along the shore.

Algal blooms are a natural occurrence. But human activities affect the earth's ability to deal with such a phenomenon. High concentrations of nutrients, high levels of sea temperature and high salinity are factors that spur algal growth. And by ruthlessly dumping organic wastes into the seas, people increase the concentration of nutrients. Possible culprits are human waste, industrial sewage and fertilizers.

"We have to be vigilant about what we put in our waters," says Alan Silayan, WWF research assistant. "A high-level of nutrient combined with calm waters and high sea temp increases the chance of red tide occurring."

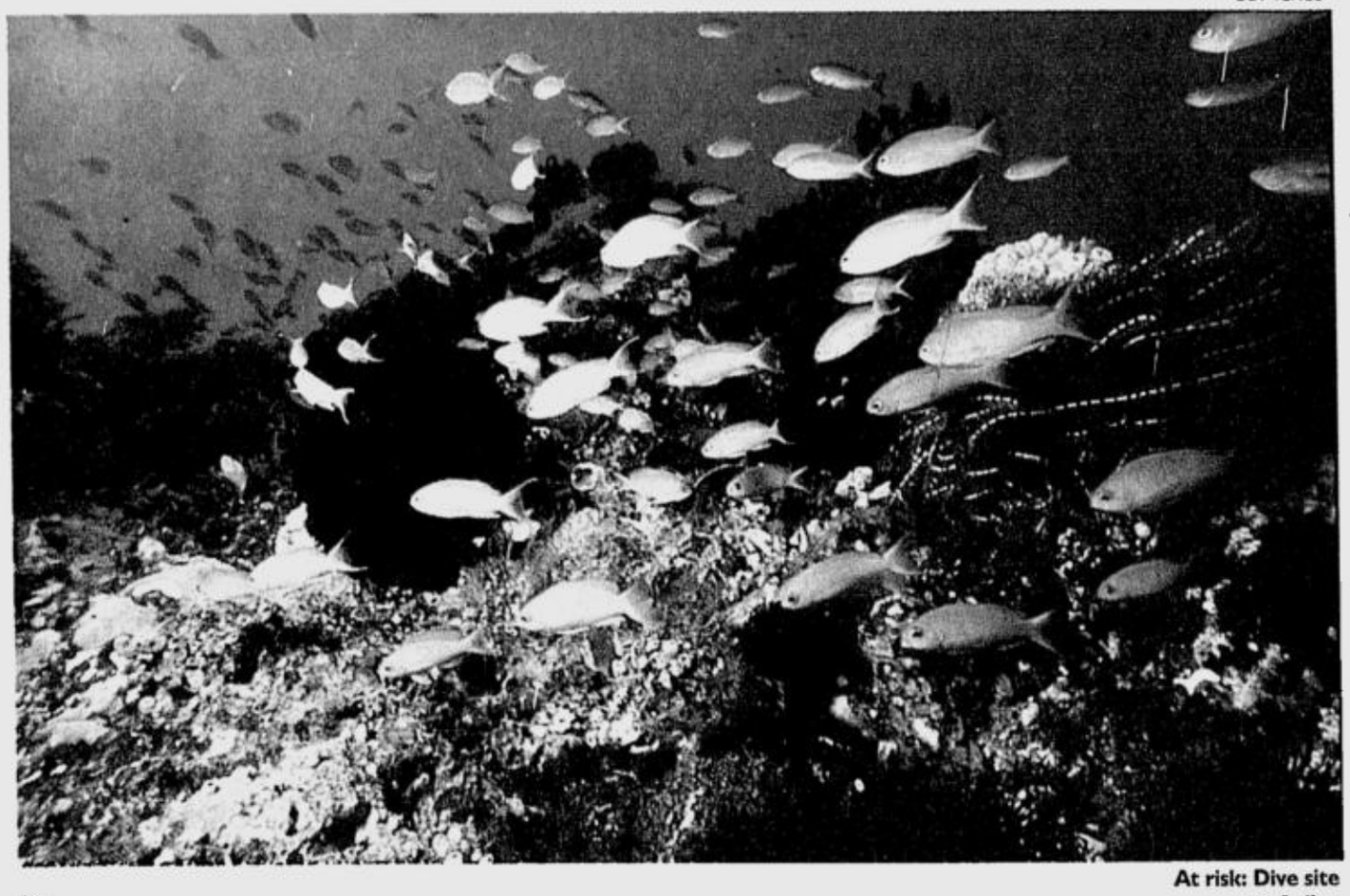
The increasing sea temperature, a result of climate change, is also caused by human activity. To put it simply, the carbon dioxide we have been pumping into the air since the Industrial Revolution, is heating up the planet.

"Global warming poses the most significant threat to humanity and the planet in the 21st century," says WWF-President Lory Tan. "Global warming is already creating devastating effects on the planet's biodiversity, agriculture, fisheries, freshwater supply, health and most aspects of life on earth."

Balayan Bay is known to be one of the premiere eco-tourism spots in the Philippines, covering the popular scuba-diving destination of Anilao and other watersports areas. Research conducted by international experts on marine life has also found Balayan Bay to be one of the most ecologically rich sites in the Philippines in terms of coral and fish species. In an effort to protect the environmental integrity of the Bay, WWF-Philippines, a conservation organization, has been lobbying for the protection of fish sanctuaries and has been working to strengthen the enforcement of fisheries laws in the area. In an area as biologically diverse as Balayan Bay, the consequences of any environmental disaster could have dire consequences for all the creatures that depend on the Bay for survival: corals, fish and humans alike.

In the meantime, people must pay the consequences of abusing Mother Nature. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has advised the public to refrain from eating dead fish in affected areas. Fish is safe for human consumption, provided they are fresh, washed thoroughly before cooking, and their gills, guts and viscera have been removed. Swimmers and scuba divers are advised to avoid waters where red tide occurred.

BOY VENUS



At risk: Dive site at Anilao

Anilao at sunset: Endangered paradise

BOBBY SAN BUENAVENTURA

The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

A Big Little Hero

Twenty-year-old Robert Lumbes, a fellow pilgrim at the Center for Migrant Youth, fulfilled his dream "to do something good for others." Lumbes drowned while saving the life of another

AS I am writing this piece (June 5), the bloated body of Robert Lumbes, 20, had just been moved out of the police autopsy room, we were told, to the Tres Amigos morgue to wait for relatives to claim his remains for burial.

Robert drowned June 2 at the Manila Bay breakwater in Baseco, Port Area, trying to save the life of a certain Analyn Ocampo who fell into the raging waters while crossing a wooden bridge during high tide.

Robert was 16 years old when he was referred to the Center for Migrant Youth which ministers to provincial migrant and street youth displaced and homeless in the city. Robert stowed away from a destitute, dysfunctional and turbulent home life in Bicol in 1994. "I want to finish high school," he wrote on his application form, "so I can do something good for others."

But Robert had the compulsive urge to move perpetually like a nomad and gallivant with his *barkada* even when he was already settled in our house. "I just want to be with my friends," he insisted, "so I can do something good for them." Robert agreed to enroll in high school while remaining at the Center for four years. When he chose to leave after four years, (again because of his friends), we bade him goodbye with a heavy heart. But he continued visiting the Center, volunteering to do errands and odd jobs for us and the neighbors. We saw him for the last time on May 25 and 26, and again on May 31 when he asked for a fresh change of clothes, two kilos of rice, canned goods, noodles, instant *ginatan* mix and pocket money "for an outing with my friends," he said.

Robert: He died doing something good for a stranger

June 2, Sunday

After the Corpus Christi morning Mass at the Center, Robert's friends came up to me to break the sad news about his death. "He drowned trying to do something good for others," they said almost triumphantly quoting verbatim Robert's personal anthem.

With Danny Venida and Nick Navarette of AKKAPKA (Movement for Active Non-Violence), I rushed to the Baseco area along the Manila Bay breakwater in Port Area which was then a "hell of a place" to go on a lovely Sunday morning — a slimy and muddy swamp after that big fire that recently devoured almost the entire squatter colony inside the Baseco compound where Robert used to live.

June 5, Wednesday

Danny Venida called up to inform me that Robert's elder sister had, at last, been reached. We felt relieved because Robert could now have a swift decent burial without his kin having to succumb to pressure from his "friends" to delay the burial further, perhaps to be able to make money out of "our beloved friend Robert."

June 6, Thursday

I requested Danny to locate the residence of Robert's sister where the remains, we were told, were lying in state. Once located, our CMY in-house and out-of-house communities would go as one group to pay our respects to our departed fellow pilgrim, and offer whatever services we can afford in terms of being with Robert's family in their grief, supporting them in their sustenance and sharing happy memories about Robert while he was with us; I will also tell them how their "prodigal son" had sorely missed them during his growing years, and how their son must have forgiven them perhaps while he was bravely struggling in the cruel waters of Manila Bay trying "to do something good to a stranger" whose life he saved with his own.

It was indeed a hero's death. How proud we are of you, Robert!

Artist ...from page 8

Pastel portraits of high school classmates and teachers kept him running back and forth to the Paperworld Store, obsessed with purchasing art material. Another favorite hangout was the Imus public library to study Amorsolo's and Manansala's works from books. Even so, when company came to visit, he would hide in the closet.

In college at the Philippine Women's University for a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, Aladin had the good fortune to fall under Ibarra de la Rosa's tutelage, learning to paint leaves in myriad greens and yellows, sunlit and in shade. Invariably, Antiqueño's children play in idyllic calm ensconced among leaves.

Joining every student's art contest while in college, he was a finalist in the Shell National Art Competition. A finalist again the following year, *"Taguan"* was used as the oil company's Christmas card. He was also finalist in the Metrobank Art Competition.

Persistent annual entries in Shell contests finally bore fruit in his senior year when he copped first place for *"Hanap."* To boot, *"Tago"* was a Shell finalist, sold then and there to an Araneta. "That year, 1992, was a very good year for me," he says, with long sought-after prizes (not to mention the cash windfall) and a college diploma.

Intrepidly, the painter ventured forth to win many more awards, often Jurors' Choice of the prestigious Art Association of the Philippines, or as finalist at Metrobank. *"Tuklas,"* an AAP Jurors' Choice, hangs in former President Fidel V. Ramos' office at Urban Bank, the large mural a present from Cesar Sarino.

Coming as he does from humble beginnings, social content is found in some of Aladin's work. *"Mas Matamis Pa sa Kendi"* shows beggar brothers being given a peso coin by another boy, instead of buying candy. "It's bound to hit the viewer, *pitik sa puso*, particularly if he himself has undergone hard times," Aladin says, tellingly.

"I like to paint what appears to be children's nonsense. That's how children learn, by scrutinizing things. What appears to be a waste of time actually helps their development." He records "native games which are being forgotten and replaced by computer games, so we can remember." Photorealism is the style he has chosen to depict them luminously; the work can be daunting to all but the most industrious and determined of artists.

After many group exhibits, "the future master," according to renowned painter Araceli Limcaco Dans, was ready for bigger things. Sid Gomez-Hildawa of the AAP arranged for Antiqueño's first one-man show in February 2002 at the British Council, where in lieu of a speech at the opening, the shy artist said, "Thank you for coming. Enjoy the paintings."

Proud of his brother and best friend (whom he confesses he would kiss goodbye even when he was already in the third grade, and who now works as a secretary to a La Salle Brother at Greenhills), he underscores Aliver's help in preparing for the show. *"Kapatid Ko, Kaibigan Ko"* is inspired by the relationship.

Antiqueño met Dans of the famed *calado* paintings at the solo exhibit, and they have become steadfast friends. "His interest in his work is almost obsessive," she says of her fellow artist. "He's a man with a goal, focused, wanting to fill every working hour. How can he help not being successful? His only ambition is to be a good artist."

Both painters are driven, deep calling to deep. "He reminds me of myself. All I wanted to do was paint," says Dans. Like his children, "He looks into things, very curious, very observant. I can imagine what he will be at my age." Over Easter, Dans and Antiqueño and six other artists exhibited their fine and much-applauded work at the Baguio Country Club.

Antiqueño the introvert confesses: "The problem is that while developing my skills as a painter, my social skills got worse." The Law of Compensation is clearly at work. "Maybe I would not have advanced as rapidly artistically if I had grown up more normally." But, he adds, "I never thought about whether or not there was a future in art. It's really what I've always wanted to do."

His friends, though not a wide circle, would probably disagree. Aladin's striking good looks coupled with an easy way with people mask the introvert. Traveling about town from Bacoor, Cavite, he carries a duffel bag slung over his shoulder carrying brushes, tubes of oil paint and a camera tripod which, by some mechanical device, he has fashioned to double as an easel, a canvas upon which he will paint on the spot.

Rubbing elbows with prominent personalities whose portraits he has painted has not changed Antiqueños outlook. He remains self-effacing, standing just outside of whatever may be happening, to observe in thoughtful introspection, and to record on canvas what his eyes do not want to forget—beach scenes, the Museo ng Maynila, whatever may strike his artist's fancy.

La Salle's unhappy little boy has left lasting mementos in his alma mater's halls: portraits of Brothers Andrew Gonzalez, Gilbert Cotter, Richard Duerr, Felix Masson and Daniel Ortiz among other school benefactors he has immortalized in oil.

Look out for the continuing saga of Aladin S. Antiqueño. He's going places.

By Jess Abrera

Bridal Attire for Hire

Art

Cave Drawings, a series of abstract paintings by Popo San Pascual at Finale Art Gallery, 4th Floor, SM Megamall A until today.

The works of **Bernard Schultze, Emil Schumacher and Fred Thieler** is open for public viewing at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Roxas Boulevard, Manila until June 29. The three artists have been associated with the Abstract Expressionism movement in Germany.

"Delirium Drama" by Ino Caluza Jr., on exhibit at the Hiraya Gallery

Steel Life, a solo exhibit by Ino Caluza Jr. at Hiraya Gallery, 530 UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila until June 30.

A Canuck Looks Down Under, a photo exhibit of the various icons in Australia by Neil Gordon Lees at the Australia Centre, Paseo de Roxas, Makati until July 5.

One on One, a collection of monoprints by Don Artamas at the Donada Art Gallery, 2618, G/F, RL Building, Donada St., Malate, Manila until July 8.

"Ultimate Destiny" by Don Artamas, on exhibit at the Donada Art Gallery

Music

The **University of the Philippines Singing Ambassadors** will perform in a series of farewell concerts: June 18, 7 p.m. at Shangri-La Plaza Mall Cinema One; June 22, 7 p.m., Philamlife Auditorium, UN Avenue, Manila; June 26, 8 p.m., Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, and on June 28, 7 p.m. at the Church of the Risen Lord, UP Diliman, QC. For inquiries, call 0916-3862150, 912-1007 or 924-9378.

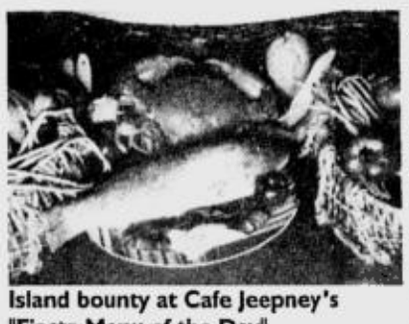
Onstage

The Workshoppers Batch 2001-2002 of Sining-Lahi Poly Repertory will have its culminating activity, ***Kulay Abo ang Madaling-Araw***, a play written by Marlon Mente based on the novel "Without Seeing the Dawn," to be staged on June 21, 3 p.m. at the Claro M. Recto Auditorium, Mabi Campus, Sta. Mesa, Manila. Admission is free.

Food

Makati Shangri-La has lined up delicious culinary offerings on Father's Day. Island Café features a sumptuous buffet consisting of **international favorites** like assorted maki and sushi from Japan, a Chinese-style hanging barbecue station with roasted sukcling pig, duckling and Pork Char Siu, Mediterranean delicacies such as Shawarma, and imported Roast Prime Rib along with a variety of soups, salads, main courses and desserts. For inquiries, call 813-8888 ext. 7024.

The Richmonde Hotel honors the men of the house with a sumptuous **lunch buffet of seafood selections**. Dads also get a special gift courtesy of the hotel and a chance to win hotel gift certificates for an overnight stay in a deluxe room or buffet lunch for two at the Grill in the Father's Day raffle. For inquiries, cal 638-7777.


Island bounty at Cafe Jeepney's "Fiesta Menu of the Day"

Starting June 17, Alba Restaurante Español introduces **12 *Nuevas Paellas*** all made from Don Alba's original recipes. Discover Paella Filipino which comes with *sisig* and slices of Alba's *cochinillo*. *Paella Verde* which uses a variety of blended vegetables. For those who crave for original Spanish paellas, Don Alba has come up with *Paella de Conejo*, *Paella de Pato* and *Paella de Pichon*. For the adventurous diners, there are the *Paella de Pulpo* (octopus) topped with prawns and *Paella de Anguila* (eel). Seafood lovers will love the *Paella de Langostinos* (prawns), *Paella de Cangrejos* (crab) and *Paella de Salmon*. The 12 *nuevas paellas* are available at Alba Restaurante Español's branches at Polaris St., Bel-Air, Makati (896-6950 to 51) and Tomas Morato (925-1912 and 411-7052).

Hotel Inter-Continental Manila's Café Jeepney celebrates Pinoy Power as it presents **all-Filipino fiesta favorites** this month. The featured lunch or dinner four-course menu varies every day until June 30 to showcase the best of Ilonggo, Bicolano, Pampango and other popular provincial cuisine.

Celebrate Father's Day in style and splendor at Manila Galleria Suites as Raphael Café-Restaurant presents a special **Father's Day lunch and dinner buffet**. For reservations, call 633-7111 ext. 7416.

Take Dad to a memorable **lunch or dinner date** at any of Edsa Shangri-La's fine restaurants where he gets a mug and a Tabacalera cigar. For reservations, call 633-8888 ext. 2738.

New World Renaissance Hotel offers special **lunch and dinner buffets** of continental cuisine, Chinese and Vietnamese dishes, and a la carte menu at the hotel's restaurants. For inquiries, call 811-6888.

Manila Midtown Hotel treats Dads to the homemade goodness of **lunch and dinner buffet** at the Vogue Coffeeshop. To compliment the celebration, special surprises await all dining fathers on this special day. For details, call 526-7001.

Weave special moments with dad on his special day as you reward him with **elegant dining**, a luxurious hotel stay, a rejuvenating spa treatment, exciting gifts or even a combination of all at the Mandarin Oriental, Manila. For inquiries, call 750-8888.

Atbp

Tanghalang Pilipino opens **auditions for "Inasiang,"** Mario O'Hara's award-winning drama, on June 22, 4-8 p.m. at the CCP Conference Room. Applicants should be at least 18 years old, preferably with an ample background in theater acting. They must submit a 2 x 2 ID photo and comprehensive resumé, and will be asked to read scenes from the play. For inquiries, call 832-3661 or 832-1125 loc. 1620.

The Alcove Photo Gallery is offering courses for all amateur photographers and hobbyists: **Photo 101: Basic 35mm Photography** (June 24-27, 6-9 p.m.) and Photo 310: A Primer on Studio Lighting by Jay Alonzo (June 28-29) at the Reading Room, Filipinas Heritage Library. For details, call 892-1801.

Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino is now accepting entries for its **two essay contests**. First is the *Gawad Surian sa Sanaysay*-Gantimpalang Collantes which is open to all budding writers. Second is the *Gawad Komisyon sa Sanaysay*, a special contest for professional and awarded writers. Entries for both contest should be in Filipino, not less than 20 typewritten pages for amateurs and minimum of 25 typewritten pages for professionals, double-spaced on an 8 1/2 x 11" bond paper, in four copies. Entries may be submitted to Lupon sa Sanaysay, c/o G. Jesus E. Ferrer, G/F Watson Building, 1610 J.P. Laurel St., San Miguel, Manila. For details, call 736-2526, 736-2525 and 736-2521.

Dr. Chit Del Villar will conduct a workshop in confidence building through the **Mind-Body Communication Technique**. The workshop is designed for college students who are interested in developing their confidence through alternative means. It will run for four Saturdays starting June 29. Registration is until June 21. For details, call 924-8589 or 924-3224.

Critical essays and full-color spreads on art from Angono, Bulacan, Baguio, Palawan and other provinces in Luzon brim over in the recently released fourth volume of Pananaw, Philippines Journal of Visual Arts published by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts Committees on Visual Arts and Art Galleries. **Pananaw 4** will be launched on June 22, 6 p.m. at the Surrounded by Water Gallery, 70 18th St., Cubao, QC. The Pananaw series is available at the NCCA in Intramuros, selected branches of Goodwill and National Bookstore, The Filipino Bookstore, Powerbooks, Page One, Tradewinds Bookshop, Lopez Museum, Tam-Awan (Baguio City) and Galerie Kamarikutan (Puerto Princesa, Palawan). The series is also available online via http://www.exultrade.com/pananaw.

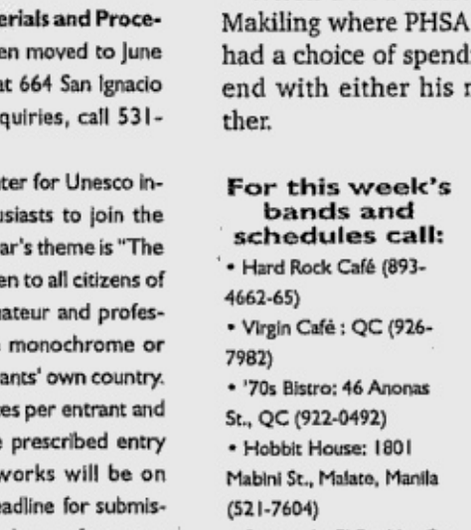
Executive Editors Inc. offers **writing workshops** on Newsletter Publishing (June 20-21) and Popular Writing for Newsletters (June 27-28). For details, call 887-3797.

The workshop **Shapes: Materials and Procedure on Mold Making** has been moved to June 18-19 at the Sinag Arts Studio at 664 San Ignacio St., Mandaluyong City. For inquiries, call 531-3491.

The Asia Pacific Cultural Center for Unesco invites photographers and enthusiasts to join the **ACCU Photo Contest**. This year's theme is "The Joy of Sport." The contest is open to all citizens of Unesco member countries, amateur and professionals. The entries should be monochrome or color prints taken in the participants' own country. Entries are limited to three pieces per entrant and should be accompanied by the prescribed entry form. Selection of winning works will be on September in Tokyo, Japan. Deadline for submission is July 31. Contest rules and entry forms are available at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Visual Arts Unit, 4th Level, CCP Main Building. For details, call 832-3702.

X-manila

The Dagupan city government will treat its residents to a peformance of the Repertory Philippines' original historical musical production **Miong** in celebration of its *Agew na* Dagupan (founding day). It will be shown at the Dagupan Astrodome for five performances on June 19, 20 and 21.


"Miong" goes onstage at the Dagupan Astrodome

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- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules.

Music

...from page 5

often elicits surprise because it is usually associated with a girl, recalls their early years as a family in Marikina:

"It was an idyllic life. We lived in a bungalow that was more of a *bahay kubo* (nipa hut). We had a *kangkungan* in the backyard. We weren't allowed to watch television, so we just climbed our fruit trees and on market days, we sold fruits."

Diwa remembers being exposed to music early. At home, Bach filled the air, as did Mozart, *kundiman* and the "Latin music that *nanay* loved." Jun and Anna would go on fieldwork in the provinces and bring home with them not only marang and durian, but also musical instruments. "Diwa was two when I first gave him a *kudyapi*, the two-stringed lute," says Jun. The children would occasionally join the provincial jaunts, so that Diwa and elder sisters Sinag and Ani became just as exposed to life outside the city. Cousins and friends came visiting too, among them the child Daniw. Daniw, it turned out, is Jun's child with a former student. By that time, all was not well in the De Leon household.

The couple had a quiet separation, although not unknown to their associates. Anna, along with Diwa, transferred to a house in UP Village. Diwa was a year or two away from his elementary graduation. He recounts: "The separation was not something we questioned. We looked at it as a fact of life. Later, when I found out that Daniw was my half-brother all along, I was cool about the revelation. So, that was that. *Eh ano ngayon?*"

When Diwa came down from Makiling where PHSA is located, he had a choice of spending the weekend with either his mother or father.

"Since I was becoming more interested in the arts, I went home to Tatay more. Who needs an art encyclopedia when you have Jun de Leon for a father?" he says half-seriously.

When Diwa finally entered college, he chose to live with his father. By this time, his father's partner was living too in the house that Felipe, Sr. built in the 1960s. With them were Daniw and another offspring from the partnership, Dawani.

"I had greater freedom. Nanay would not have allowed me to keep awake at night which happens to be my internet high times."

Diwa and Daniw are roommates, and both share a strong interest in computers.

"It is a happy household," Jun claims. "I do not insist that my children by Anna take my partner for a mother. As a matter of fact, they call her Ate. And Anna is still Nanay, of course."

Diwa is proud of the fact that his parents "are always there when I need them." Both attended his graduation in Makiling. In Diliman, when he was bestowed the Gawad Chancelor because he represented the country in the Asean Youth Camp, both parents joined the admiring crowd.

Says Diwa: "Tatay is the one I talk with about arts and culture. But it's Nanay who gives me moral support. She's more like the stage mother without being pushy. If there's anything we don't see eye to eye on, it is the restrictions that a mother would usually impose on her children. And I am too free-spirited for that."

Her politics is something he's proud of, says Diwa. "Her feminism is uplifting. I am actually her captive audience when she promotes women's role in society so women will know their real value." He worries about her as well, he admits, "especially when this politician from the North threatened her. He even called her lesbian."

Such labels don't faze him. "I tend to accept that fact that Nanay has a strong character and she's not about to be pushed by anyone."

He can be a stage father too, says Jun in not so many words: "Diwa's band practices here at home, and I leave them to their own devices. It's a house used to rehearsals and jamming sessions, from the time of Conching Rosal and other musical greats who were chummy with my father, to Diwa's Makiling Ensemble. " says Jun.

Makiling Ensemble has already released its first album, "*Medyo* Modern." Their second one, tentatively titled "*Patintero sa Ilalim Ng Buwan*" is in the works.

Jun sees a great potential in his son's band, even as he has qualms about Diwa's certain ways. "Although Diwa doesn't smoke, I don't exactly approve of his being exposed to smoke, which there is a lot of in bars. And of course I don't like it if he should drink beer too much," says Jun. Not surprisingly, he shares Anna's concern about Diwa keeping late hours, "because our bodies have a way of getting back at us if we don't take care of it."

Obviously, these are a typical father's worries. On the whole, though, Jun believes in "Diwa as a truly creative person, and a truly versatile one." He muses: "If there's anything I want Diwa to become, it is to be a producer of great music."

Diwa realizes that. "Tatay has always wanted me to become a musician, even if he's the kind who does not impose or tell you directly his preference." Fortunately, father and son think along the same line, and the world is richer for the music that transcends generations.

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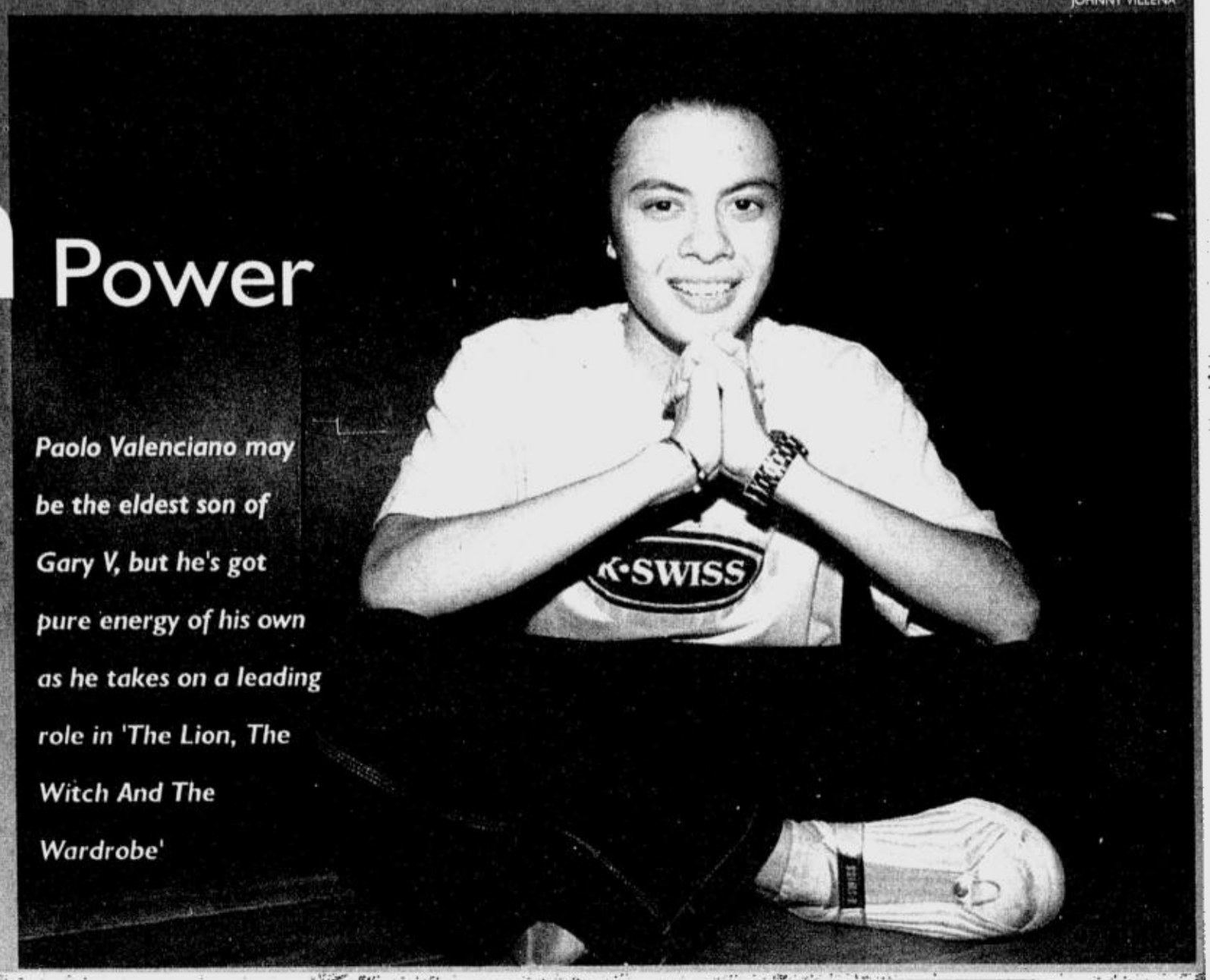
HIGH SCHOOL (YEAR 1 TO 4)

MEMBER PARA Truth in Advertising

Theater Tales
By Ruel S. De Vera

Son Power

JOHNNY VILLENA



Paolo Valenciano may be the eldest son of Gary V, but he's got pure energy of his own as he takes on a leading role in 'The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe'

FIRST of all, the name's Paolo Valenciano and not Paolo V. Second, he does not want to become a pop star. Sure, he's the son of star performer Gary Valenciano and, truth be told, he does possess a similar intensity, like he's a livewire lying dormant, ready to spring into action. The 5'7" Paolo, whose complete name is Juan Paulo Martin has the same powerful long limbs and soulful eyes as his father.

Yet the 17-year-old Paolo only recently discovered that he likes to sing, something he didn't like to do when he was younger. Believe it or not, Paolo never wanted to be any kind of performer-until two years ago. He still doesn't like to dance but has fallen under the thrall of the theater footlights, not the record charts.

Charting a path all his own has always been paramount to Gary V's eldest son who saw first hand, through his dad, the pressures that came with being famous."When I was young, people would ask me to dance or sing, and I wouldn't," Paolo recalls. "They would ask, 'But why not, you're Gary V.'s son, but I really didn't want to."

Beyond the expectations that came with being Gary's son, Paolo says his father's fame was a mixed blessing for him. "It's nice to see that so many people admire my dad but it wasn't much fun because we didn't get to talk to him that much." Things got better when he got older, although his aversion for showbiz remains. "I didn't want to be a celebrity--I don't like showbiz," he says.

Instead, Paolo has fallen in love with the theater, which came as a surprise to him although his mother Angeli notes that the boy has always been good at "making *arte* since he was two." Two years ago, Paolo joined Trumpets Playshop, where he learned the rudiments of stage acting. "Finally something I'm good at." The following year when he took musical theater, he discovered he likes singing in a play. "It's a lot of fun." While Paolo isn't exactly obsessed with listening to all the big musicals, he is unequivocal about his favorite: "'Joseph The Dreamer.' That's my dream role *talaga*, ever since I saw my dad do it for the first time."

After acting in minor Trumpets productions, Paolo makes his big-time musical theater debut as an understudy in the lead role of Peter in the upcoming Trumpets production of C.S. Lewis' "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe," which opens at the Meralco Theater in August. He considers landing the lead role as "one of the greatest achievements in my life."

He finds all these very new. "I'm really excited," he gushes, adding that theater is something he wants to do while he's young.

Something he also wants to do is emerge from the shadow of his immensely successful and charismatic dad. "The only thing I'm scared of is if people say I'm not as good as my dad. I want to be known as Paolo Valenciano and not just as Gary V.'s son. I want to have a reputation for the things I do. If ever I become famous, I want to do it on my own and not because of my dad."

The lead role is very much a signal of Paolo's own coming of age as a talent, one managed, not surprisingly, by his mother's Manila Genesis Entertainment & Management, Inc. In many ways, the role just might lead to entirely new horizons for him.

It's not like he isn't interested in the music industry. He is, but just not the way you expect. "I'm trying to form a band right now with some of my friends," Paolo explains, "and nothing like R&B or pop." Paolo wants his band to play alternative rock and says he's currently listening to Incubus and Jamiroquai.

Currently a freshman taking up Literature at De La Salle University, Paolo is savoring the college experience. His increasingly endangered free time used to be spent playing tennis, but now he usually just hangs out with friends or with girlfriend Anna. He originally wanted to be a pilot until "too many video games" made his eyes go bad, he says.

But he still sees himself as a film director. "I really love movies," he gushes, of a career behind the camera. "I can't act in front of a camera, no way." His favorite directors are Steven Spielberg and George Lucas, and "Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi," is his all-time favorite movie. Watching movies is a passion he shares with his dad. "We really jive when it comes to that."

Stagestruck: Paolo's found himself happy on stage (above); with brother Gabriel (left) and father Gary

In fact, Paolo says he's actually very much like his dad—"with a little bit of my mom mixed in." His penchant for getting "weird when I get really *kenkoy*" comes from his father, he adds. Paolo considers himself quite close to his dad. "He comes to my room and we talk about what's been happening to me in school. I'm not hesitant to talk to him like other guys are to their dads."

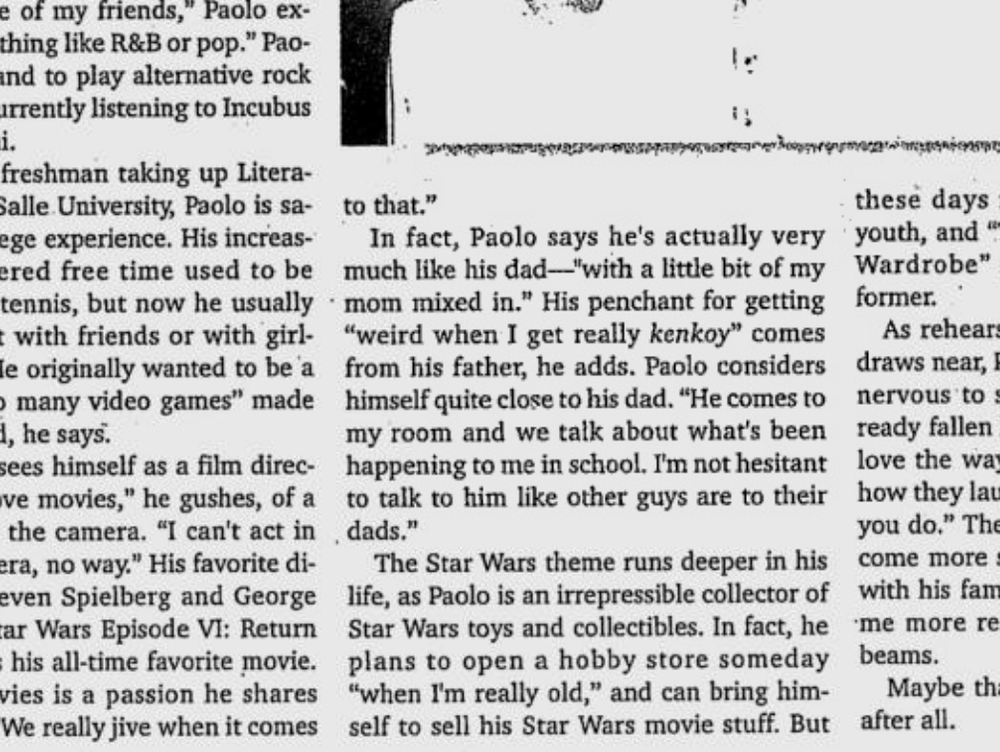
The Star Wars theme runs deeper in his life, as Paolo is an irrepressible collector of Star Wars toys and collectibles. In fact, he plans to open a hobby store someday "when I'm really old," and can bring himself to sell his Star Wars movie stuff. But these days mark the height of Paolo's youth, and "The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe" marks his arrival as a performer.

As rehearsals begin and opening night draws near, Paolo worries that he'll get too nervous to sing properly. But he has already fallen hard for the joys of theater. "I love the way the audience reacts to you, how they laugh and cheer because of what you do." The play has also helped him become more secure about the comparisons with his famous father. "People are giving me more respect now. And I like it," he beams.

Maybe that wardrobe really is magical after all.

Artwatch
By Joan Orendain

The Introverted Artist



Artist Aladin Antiqueño remains shy and unassuming in spite of his accomplishments. Yet, it is this quiet inner life that has given him rich material for his stunning photorealistic works

"The Search," by Aladin Antiqueño

TWO lonely little boys spent their earliest years growing up on the Taft Avenue campus of De La Salle University. Their father, Pedro, was the school's master carpenter, the only employee allowed to live with his wife, Monica, and seven children, behind the Engineering building.

Only when school was out were Aladin Antiqueño and his brother Aliver, a year older and his best friend, allowed to play outdoors. Otherwise they were confined to playing in the workers' canteen run by their mother.

They picked fruits off *santol* and *aratilis* trees, found a dissected cat sticking out of the garbage can, and a dead *bayawak* on the soccer field. Good days were when laborers brought their kids along to play, but they would leave at five.

Hanging out by the entrance's covered walk, a kindly Biology teacher, who espied the guards shooing the kids away, invited them to his laboratory in William Hall. There, the bug-eyed boys were allowed to rummage freely among bottles of formaldehyde frogs, fetuses, snakes and other such curiosities. For the most part, though, it was two against the world, it seemed to the brothers.

None of that episode in his life has gone to waste for Aladin, now 30 and an accomplished painter. Not the loneliness, and not the children at play. Other than portraits of the rich and famous which earn Aladin handsome fees, his paintings are largely of boys inspecting a spider, or pulling a splinter out of a finger, or more personally, *"Ilap,"* a boy too shy to join would-be playmates, resigned to observing the rabble from a distance.

The solitude found an outlet in grade school, in Imus, Cavite, lettering classmates' folders with Araling Panlipunan (social studies), and pastoral scenes for P5 apiece. He also began to draw pencilled portraits.

Wanting to surprise an arriving relative at the airport with a placard-portrait, a high school teacher framed the portrait instead. So pleased was the teacher with the freebie rendered with brushes ground into carbon paper that he gave Aladin four Washington apples and an imported T-shirt.

To page 6

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

IMF warns RP against abrupt cuts in power rates

STORY ON PAGE A2

Pontiff proclaims Padre Pio a saint

VATICAN CITY—As firemen hosed down one of the largest crowds ever to fill the Vatican area, Pope John Paul II on Sunday made a saint of Padre Pio, a 20th-century mystic monk who is said to have borne the bleeding wounds of Christ.

In sweltering heat, hundreds of thousands of people from around the world

PONTIFF/A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

'I was kidnapped. Help me, Father'

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—"I am a kidnap victim. Help me, Father," the woman said, her voice weak but her words clear.

Then without pausing, she pleaded almost in tears: "I ran away from my

I WAS/A20

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Monday, June 17, 2002 ★ 72 pages / 5 sections / vol.17 / no. 189 P15
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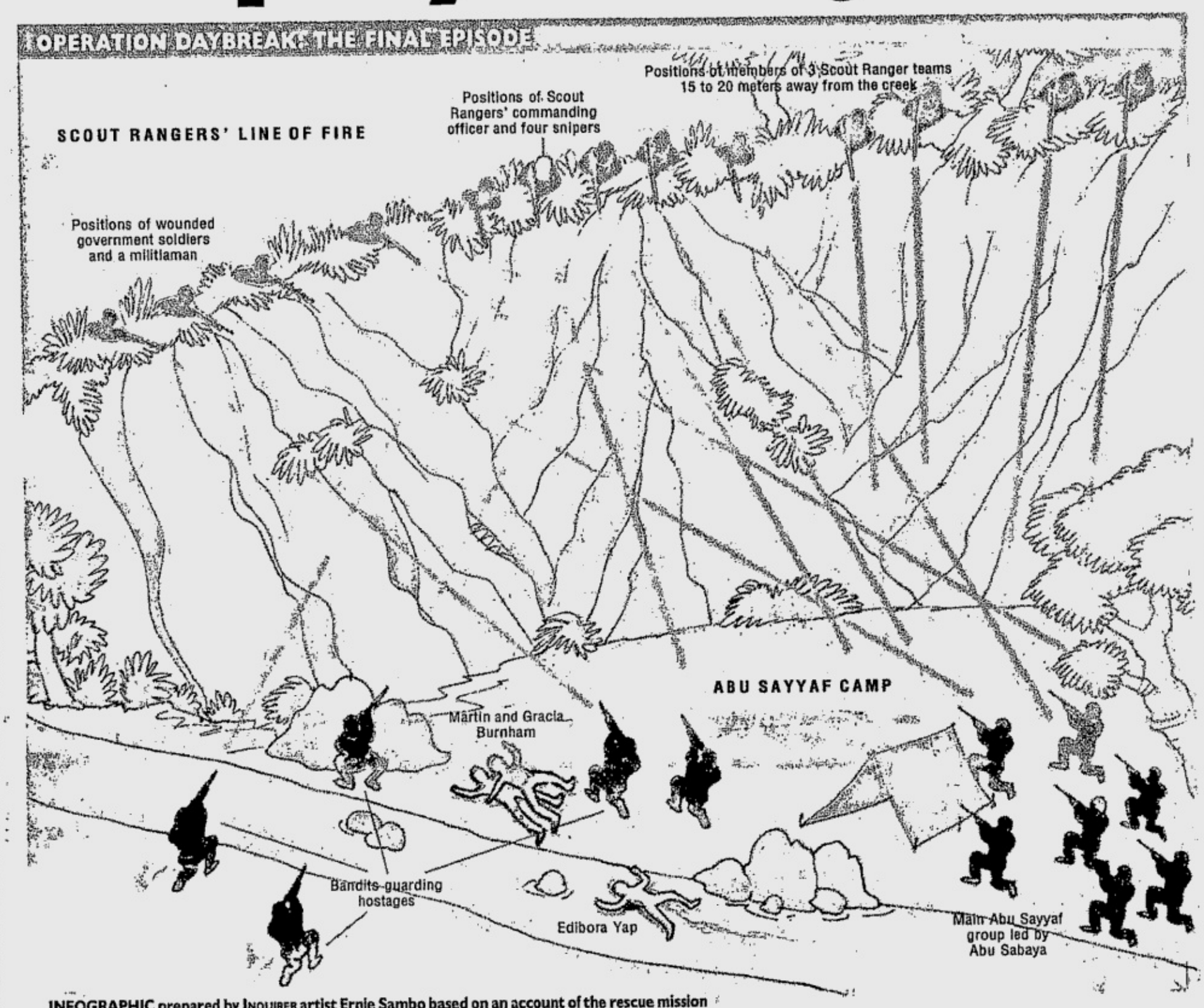
Erap eyes FPJ for 2004



INFOGRAPHIC prepared by INQUIRER artist Ernie Sambo based on an account of the rescue mission by Lt. Oliver Almonares, commanding officer of Scout Ranger teams that fought the Abu Sayyaf bandits near Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte, on June 7.

'Ang Panday' to battle 'Ang Pandak'?

By Christine Avendaño and Volt Contreras

THE BATTLE between "Ang Panday" and "Ang Pandak" in 2004 looms as action king Fernando Poe Jr. is being eyed by the opposition as its standard-bearer, a congressman yesterday said.

"Ang Panday" refers to Poe, who played the hero in the movie series, and "Ang Pandak," to the diminutive President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is running in 2004.

The congressman told the INQUIRER that deposed President Joseph Estrada, head of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino, had already convinced Poe, his best friend, to run for president in 2004.

"(Sen.) Ed(gardo) Angara is not on the list of Erap," the source said. "Estrada's personal choice is FPJ." (Angara of the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) is said to be teaming up with Sen. Loren Legarda for the coming presidential elections.)

Poe has in fact been going around the country for some time now to "see how people will react to him" without any organized support, according to the source.

Interviewed from his detention suite, Estrada played coy when asked about the opposition's presidential candidate in 2004.

While denying reports that he had been pushing privately for Poe, Estrada said his friend was "one of the probables."

He said the others were "(Sen. Panfilo) Lacson, Angara, (Education Secretary Raul) Roco, Legarda, and even (Sen. Juan) Flavier, who can prove to be a dark horse."

"He (Poe) has nothing more to prove in the movies. So who knows?" he told the INQUIRER on the phone.

"But right now, he (Poe) is not interested in politics. Maybe if he can be convinced," said Estrada, a former action star.

The congressman mentioned two names that Estrada had referred to as possible presidential candidate of the opposition.

Besides Poe, Estrada is considering Lacson and Flavier, according to the

ERAP/A20

We didn't kill hostages, say Scout Rangers

SPECIAL REPORT

By Volt Contreras

(First of two parts)

ZAMBOANGA CITY—When the Scout Rangers finally caught up with the Abu Sayyaf bandits guarding hostages Martin and Gracia Burnham and Edibora Yap, the soldiers opened fire even without a "visual" of the hostages, the INQUIRER learned over the weekend.

But the "disoriented" bandits returned fire "indiscriminately" with automatic weapons and M203s, the company commander in charge of the operation said.

"I'm convinced it was not us who killed them," said 1st Lt. Oliver Almonares, who gave the order to the 15th Scout Ranger Company to engage the bandits on the fateful afternoon of June 7.

In separate interviews, Almonares, Sgt. Rodney Magbanua and Cpl. Rodelio Tuazon recounted what happened during the encounter that left Martin Burnham and Yap dead and Gracia and nine government troops wounded:

As early as 6 a.m. that day, the Scout Rangers had already picked up the tracks of the Abu Sayyaf group in the thick jungles of Sibuco town,

WE/A6

Hot, humid days indicate El Niño onset

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

ALTHOUGH classes have started, it still feels like summer because of the sweltering heat.

The temperature in Quezon City, for instance, rose yesterday to 35 degrees Celsius, according to the weather bureau.

Isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms have been falling all over the country, particularly in the Visayas and Mindanao, but the weather is still hot and humid.

Weather forecasters said the delayed onset of the rainy season could indicate the early stages of El Niño, a weather phenomenon associated with extreme climatic variability such as drought and devastating rains and winds.

The US National Oceanographic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA) said last week that El Niño had returned five years after it adversely affected about half the planet.

HOT/A20

Confessed 'taray' goes off the air

By Carlito Pablo

THE CONFESSED "*taray* (snooty)" is going off the air.

Apparently unable to hold her famous temper even during live media interviews, President Macapagal-Arroyo has scrapped her national radio program every Monday.

Three weeks ago, the President unnerved Radio Mindanao

CONFESSED/A21

Senate still deadlocked; nobody has jumped ship

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE SENATE continues to be gripped by a 12-11 impasse after administration Senators Loren Legarda-Leviste and Juan Flavier insisted that they have not switched to the opposition side.

Their emphatic statement that they have not bolted the administration camp, however, failed to stop Sen. Edgardo Angara from claiming that the opposition had made a "breakthrough in the mindset" of the administration's Senate allies when Senators Legarda, Flavier and Robert Barbers publicly conceded that the opposition had the numbers in the chamber.

The administration senators qualified that there still was a legal question over whether 12 or 13 constitute a majority from which to move for a change in the Senate leadership and a reorganization of its committees.

I interviewed Senate President Franklin Drilon, Legarda, Flavier and Angara over the weekend. From their statements, I conclude that the concession of the three pro-administration senators over the numbers does not translate into a shift of votes (warm bodies) behind the opposition. Nor does it mean the gridlock has been broken.

The reality is that the two sides have intensified their raids into each other's ranks, and no one has "jumped ship."

The administration side is targeting two opposition senators to switch to its side, and the opposition continues to woo at least two more from the other side to defect.

I believe that the legal question of what constitutes the majority to reorganize the Senate—whether it is 12 as claimed by the opposition based on members present at the Senate ad-

SENATE/A21

BONDING TIME ERIK ARAZAS

A man and his son swim together in the Manila Bay as they share moments of intimacy on Father's Day on Sunday.

Second FRONT PAGE

IMF warns vs PPA cuts

RP 'needs to pull off a delicate balancing act'

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund, in remarks made available on Sunday, has warned the Philippines against abrupt cuts in electricity charges.

IMF mission head Joshua Felman said President Macapagal-Arroyo's government "needs to pull off a delicate balancing act" in order to bring down power rates while giving investors a fair deal.

He said the government must take into account the "looming power shortage" that could hit the country if Manila does not attract new investors to set up power plants to replace aging ones.

"To entice foreign and domestic investors to come into the power industry, there is a need to establish a credible regulation structure to cover the cost (of investment)," Felman said.

Under political pressure, Ms Macapagal last month, ordered a temporary cut in electricity charges and a suspension of the power purchase adjustment (PPA) which is levied as part of the contract between the state power utility and private generators.

Energy officials have said the government will have to borrow as much as P15 billion to cover the losses caused by the reduction in electricity charges.

Felman warned that suspending the PPA would have "an immediate financing cost" to the cash-strapped government.

Bangko Sentral Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the initial damage of the power rate reduction was minimal but conceded that "the national government cannot forever shoulder the shortfall."

Ms Macapagal earlier said her order would be in effect until the government's Energy Regulatory Commission reviewed electricity tariffs. *AFP*

POWER CUT. JB Bautista of Sanlakas cuts electric wire to protest high power rates during a presscon at the Sanlakas office in Quezon City. ROMY HOMILLADA

Gov't slashes tax breaks, incentives

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho has ordered the trimming of tax exemptions and incentives granted by government agencies in an effort to bolster the government's sagging revenues, it was announced yesterday.

The incentives and exemptions, granted to attract prospective investors to this country, is "an issue we have to deal with," Camacho was quoted as saying.

All agencies will be asked to harmonize their tax incentives, the department said, adding that the internal revenue bureau would tighten its controls as well.

The department did not say how much was being lost to these incentives and exemptions although some estimates have placed it at about P4.2 billion a year.

The International Monetary Fund last week warned that the Philippines must rein in its budget deficit to achieve its projected growth targets for this year.

The government is targeting a budget deficit of P130 billion for 2002 but the deficit has already soared to P82.9 billion in the four months to April alone.

Government officials have attributed this to poor revenue collections and accelerated spending in the first months of the year. *AFP*

CAMACHO: 'It's an issue we have to deal with.'

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US troops airlift wounded RP soldiers

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A US military helicopter airlifted four wounded Philippine soldiers off the strife-torn island of Basilan to a military hospital here, after a fresh clash yesterday with the Abu Sayyaf kidnap group.

Col. Alexander Aleo, commander of forces in Basilan, said elite government troops encountered about 30 members of the extremist Abu Sayyaf in Tuburan town at midday, resulting in the death of one bandit.

More Abu Sayyaf guerrillas were believed killed or wounded, and dragged back into the jungle by their fleeing comrades. One assault rifle and several backpacks were also recovered.

The soldiers wounded in the two-hour gun battle were carried to a clearing outside Tuburan, where a US Pave Hawk helicopter picked them up, Aleo said.

Military offensives against the bandit Abu Sayyaf have been intensified in Zamboanga del Norte, Basilan, and all of Sulu since last week's rescue operation that ended in the recovery of American hostage Gracia Burnham. Her fellow hostages—husband Martin and Filipino nurse Edibora Yap—were killed in the fighting.

"We will not relent," Aleo said of the ongoing government assault. He said the targets in Basilan were Isnilon Hapilon and Hamsiraji Sali, two of five Abu leaders for whose capture the US government had offered a reward of up to $5 million.

Aleo said troops on Basilan were pursuing the guerrillas in Tuburan and watching out for the return of others who escaped after last week's rescue attempt.

"There is a probability that they would return to their Basilan base," Aleo said, adding that hundreds of elite Philippine troops were on the chase. ***With a report from AP***

MILF denies talks of new war

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front yesterday denied it was preparing to resume hostilities as some of its commanders had boasted.

"The MILF still adheres to the peace process, hoping to attain a peaceful and lasting solution to the decades-old secessionist conflict," in the southern Philippines, MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu told a radio interview in this city.

He brushed aside claims last week by MILF regional chief Ustadz Shariff Jullabi that the group was ready to establish an independent Muslim state in the southern Philippines and had recruited 50,000 new fighters and manufactured some 10,000 rocket-propelled grenades for the purpose.

Kabalu said Jullabi was not authorized to make such remarks.

"It's not true and very impossible for the MILF to train such a big number of guerrillas and manufacture huge armaments in just a short span of time," he added.

"We believe in the sincerity of President Macapagal-Arroyo in finding a lasting political solution to the (Philippine Muslim) problem and that's why the MILF has to complement it," he said.

The 12,500-strong MILF signed a ceasefire pact with Manila last year while negotiating a Malaysian-brokered peace accord with the Philippine government.

Despite the ceasefire, sporadic clashes between government troops and MILF forces have continued and military officials charge that the MILF is circumventing the truce by supporting Muslim outlaw groups such as the Abu Sayyaf.

Despite technical assistance and advice from US troops, Manila has been unable to crush the Abu Sayyaf, Islamic militants linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, who have taken dozens hostage including foreigners. ***AFP***

Missionary groups told: Avoid South

THE GOVERNMENT warned missionary groups on Saturday from entering areas of conflict in strife-torn parts of Mindanao, following a marathon hostage crisis.

"Emotions are very inflamed now because of what happened," said Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr., referring to the abduction of American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham at the hands of the Abu Sayyaf group.

Their year-long ordeal ended on June 7 when the military mounted a rescue attempt in the jungles of Zamboanga del Norte. Martin Burnham and Filipino hostage Edibora Yap were killed; Gracia Burnham was wounded but rescued in the operation.

Despite the tragedy, the Burnham's religious group, New Tribes Mission, has said it is not pulling out of the Philippines and will be even more active in the area.

"They will be well advised to be more prudent in their plans. Probably they should hold their plans (off) until we can fully stabilize this (situation)," Afable said.

"It would not be good to have any religious activities for a while in the area until things simmer down and people become calmer," he added.

The Abu Sayyaf are known for kidnapping foreigners and Christians in parts of Mindanao before demanding huge ransoms for their release. ***AFP***

No combat role for US troops, DFA reiterates

By N. Bordadora

THE PHILIPPINE Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement has reiterated that allowing US forces to undertake military exercises with Filipino troops at the company level does not mean allowing them to participate in the pursuit of Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Ambassador Jaime Yambao, executive director of the VFACom, corrected earlier reports that quoted him as saying that US troops taking part in the manhunt against Abu Sayyaf members would be allowed to engage in actual combat once the joint military exercises go down to the company level.

Yambao said that such combat roles for the US troops would be a violation of the Constitution.

"What the Terms of Reference of Balikatan 02-1 allows are for joint RP-US activities down to the Company Tactical headquarters, which certainly does not mean allowing US troops to assume combat roles," Yambao said in a statement.

Under the TOR, the US troops could be assigned to companies of the AFP if the Philippine and US governments agree.

Operating on the company level means having at least two US military advisers on each company operating in the provinces of Basilan and the Zamboanga peninsula.

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Cabinet 'NPAs' warned

By Carlito Pablo

SLACKERS in the Cabinet, watch out.

Malacañang yesterday said that some members of President Macapagal-Arroyo's official family are performing below par and their heads may roll in the next Cabinet revamp.

"Well, I can say there are some indications but I can't go to specifics," Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said when asked whether some Cabinet members are non-performing assets.

Afable is the concurrent head of the Presidential Management Staff that helps monitor the accomplishment of targets set by President Macapagal.

"This information really is submitted for presidential information," Afable said.

Afable said President Macapagal is currently reviewing her appointments "in the top level of the government," including that of her advisers and those in the sub-Cabinet levels.

"The President is really into a very in-depth review of the people she has appointed to the government," he said.

Afable, however, declined comment on President Macapagal's observations that the government is below certain targets in mass housing and the putting up of schools in each barangay, which she fixed in her State-of-the-Nation address last year.

The two concerns are under the jurisdiction of Housing Secretary Michael Defensor and Education Secretary Raul Roco, respectively.

"Well I don't want to comment directly on those matters because it might be unfair to the Cabinet members concerned," he said. "The mere fact that you have a slight lag in Sona targets that does not mean to say that there is a lag in performance."

Without naming names, Afable said that some Cabinet members may not be meeting accomplishment targets "because there may be valid reasons."

Afable, however, affirmed that the "ongoing revamp is more in relation with the first year of the Sona because the President set targets in the Sona" in July 2001.

"Usually that's the benchmark date when you review the performance of Cabinet and sub-Cabinet members," Afable said.

Afable stressed that review of the performance of Cabinet members "is really within the exclusive purview of the President."

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo said last Friday that there will be no more changes in the Cabinet with the appointment of outgoing police chief Director General Leandro Mendoza as the new transportation secretary replacing Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez.

Orejana; 54

REBECCA D. Orejana, 54, sister of broadcaster Gene Orejana, died of cancer on Friday, June 14. She is survived by sisters Loida, Mary Stella, and brothers Gene, Silvestre Jr. and Francis. Her body is in Iligan City.

Fixers can't fix test results—PRC

FAILING grades in Professional Regulation Commission licensure exams are irreversible. Fixers can't help, because re-checking of papers is not allowed.

This friendly reminder kicks off a week-long celebration that starts today, marking PRC's 29th founding anniversary. Centerpiece of festivities is an intensified drive against fixers, especially those who claim "strong connections" within the agency.

"Our policy is plain and simple," PRC Chair Antonieta Fortuna-Ibe said. "All results are final. We can only emphasize that so much."

Ibe said those who got "conditional" ratings could take a removal examination, "the result of which is also final."

The PRC oversees licensure exams for 42 professions—including those for teachers, doctors, engineers and seamen.

Ibe encouraged the public to report on fixers directly to her office, tel. no. 735-1535, or to the Legal and Investigation Division, 735-1248. The PRC Central Office is located on Padre Paredes Street, Sampaloc, Manila.

Since August last year, the PRC has been coordinating with the National Bureau of Investigation and police authorities in this campaign. Ibe said the drive has "neutralized" syndicates that have operated "for so long, and under several pretenses."

An Awards Night for 2002's Outstanding Professionals is set June 21 at the Philippine International Convention Center. Also scheduled are seminars, an outreach program, a sports festival, and a recognition day for PRC employees.

Co-hosting the celebration which ends on Friday are the Philippine Association of Board Examiners, the Foundation for Outstanding Professionals, the Philippine Federation of Professional Associations, and the 44 accredited professionals organizations recognized by PRC.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, June 17, 2002
11th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 K 21:1-16
Gospel: Mt 5:38-42

Jesus said to his disciples, "You have heard that it was said: *An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.* But I tell you this: do not oppose evil with evil; if someone slaps you on your right cheek, turn and offer the other. If someone sues you in court for your shirt, give your coat as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give when asked and do not turn your back on anyone who wants to borrow from you."

Commentary

"An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" is the oldest written law in the world. It is found in a document of Hammurabi, King of Babylon from 2285 to 2242 BC. The Jews adopted it one thousand years later in Exodus 21:23-24. It claimed to put a limit to the thirst for vengeance, and reminded judges and the community itself of the duty to defend its members against those who abuse the weak. It was to restrain the anger and hatred when we "cry for justice." Jesus' moral standards go far beyond. They are creative not destructive, aimed to destroy the circle of violence; to turn enemies into friends, to introduce pardon into our human relationships, and to recognize even in those who wrong us the dignity of children of God.

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Murder suspect wants poll job back

By Blanche S. Rivera

REMEMBER the Commission on Elections official who was dismissed after she was suspected of masterminding the murder of a colleague?

She wants her job back. And the poll body is listening.

Comelec commissioners have confirmed that lined up for discussion in their next en banc session is the motion for reconsideration filed by Angelina Matibag, former chief of the poll body's education and information department (EID).

Matibag is facing charges of murder and frustrated murder filed against her by the National Bureau of Investigation for the killing of Velma Cinco, who replaced her as EID director. Cinco was gunned down while on her way to work in November last year.

While saying she was willing to cooperate in the investigation, Matibag has repeatedly refused to appear before the NBI for questioning.

Sources told the INQUIRER that she recently met with an assistant of new Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. to lobby for her former post.

Commissioner Luz Tancangco said the possible reappointment of three other officials fired during the time of Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo was also up for discussion.

The motions filed by all four dismissed officials had been in the agenda for the past two en banc sessions, but were not tackled due to more pressing matters, Tancangco said.

Matibag's motion was filed immediately after Benipayo relieved her for the bungled information campaign during last year's May polls, Tancangco added.

Reappointed Commissioner Resurreccion Borra confirmed that Matibag's motion was in the next session's agenda, but said he did not know how it got there.

Four commissioners—Tancangco, Rufino Javier, Ralph Lantion and Mehol Sadain—held a special en banc session last week without Borra and Florentino Tuason Jr., whose reappointments were announced only afterwards.

In his first press briefing as Comelec chair, Abalos said he had no intention of reorganizing the Comelec by reshuffling directors or dismissing employees.

Curriculum row top concern for new school year

By Donna S. Cueto

WHAT are the teachers going to teach?

Classes start today with this major concern on top of the usual school opening woes, like lack of classrooms and textbooks, and yes, lack of teachers.

Today the controversial revised school curriculum, also known as the millennium curriculum or basic education curriculum (BEC), makes its debut nationwide, from the farthest-flung areas in Batanes, to war-weary districts in Mindanao.

The Department of Education sends some 400,000 public school teachers, 12.1 million elementary pupils and 4.7 million high school students, back to school to explore just five learning areas or main subjects—Filipino, English, Mathematics, Science and Makabayan.

A DepEd trainor from the central office said it would be a learning experience for both teachers and students in government schools. Private schools are allowed to implement the leaner school curriculum at their own pace.

"The next few months will be critical," the trainor said. "The teachers are bound to realize they are ill-prepared for the new program," he said.

But department officials have downplayed all possible opposition, saying division superintendents and school officials were optimistic.

In a statement, the DepEd claimed that in a position paper submitted to the Senate, all 145 public school superintendents pushed for the changes.

Dr. Teresita Arriola, president of the Philippine Elementary School Principals Association (Pespa), said her group was convinced that the BEC could "revitalize" the old curriculum.

On the other hand, in anticipation of a "chaotic" first day of instruction, the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) announced it was visiting schools all over Metro Manila today. Another group, the Manila Public School Teachers' Association, said its members would wear black armbands to protest the nationwide "pilot-testing."

Some 52 million textbooks designed for the new curriculum have been distributed nationwide. DepEd said another 30 million would be out by October. "Students will have an average of five textbooks by yearend," department officials promised, adding that in-service training and workshops for the teachers would continue.

Fil-Am smuggler gets 5 years in jail

CONVICTED Filipino-American alien smuggler Charles Joseph "Joey" Becker, 53, was sentenced by a US District Judge in California to five years in federal prison. A jury earlier convicted Becker on five felony counts, including "Fraud and Misuse of Visas" and "Inducing Illegal Aliens to Enter the United States."

Judge Dickran Tervizian, Central District of California, imposed the 60-month sentence, to be followed by three years of supervised release, after finding Becker was operating an immigration business intended to bring Filipinos to the United States illegally. The judge and jury also found Becker culpable for perjury, intimidation of witnesses and obstruction of justice.

Becker, who lived in Beverly Hills, ran a criminal enterprise based in Manila and Los Angeles. Investigation showed that over a 23-year span he had facilitated the illegal entry into the US of more than 3,000 Filipinos by providing fraudulent documentation and false identities. After his clients arrived in the US, Becker would issue them fraudulent social security and immigration documents so they could seek employment.

Becker and five former employees have been formally charged in the Philippines with fraud and related activities.

Becker's arrest and conviction was the result of close coordination between US law enforcement agencies and the National Bureau of Investigation in Manila.

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We didn't kill hostages, say Army Scout Rangers

From page A1

courtesy of a tip given by a local logger.

The Rangers estimated that the Abu Sayyaf was moving about an hour ahead of them. The pursuit went on until the early afternoon.

Between 1:30 and 3 p.m., the Rangers finally spotted the bandits—they were resting beside a creek that was then running almost knee-deep because of the day's heavy downpour. Four tents built along the creek helped give away the bandits' position.

The Rangers occupied higher ground, 15 to 20 meters above the creek. But the downward slope was very steep—"almost at 80 degrees," Almonares said.

"We would already slip and roll down the slope if we had continued advancing," he added.

Huge boulders and thick foliage on the slope limited their view of the bandits. Of the 15th SR's five seven-member teams, only three could actually see the enemy. The three teams were on somewhat lower ground, with fewer obstructions. (Not surprisingly, all the wounded troopers—six Rangers, two snipers, one Cafgu militiaman—belonged to the three teams, Almonares said.)

After he realized that his men could no longer go closer without being detected, Almonares said he ordered them to commence firing.

Unsure Rangers

When the Rangers fired the first shots, they still had not sighted the hostages. In fact, they were not sure whether the bandits were actually the ones holding the hostages, since all they initially saw were the four tents and four or five bandits standing guard.

They also did not know at the time whether bandit leader Abu Sabaya was with the group.

The Rangers thus confined their attack to "single fire" or non-automatic shots. "While we had no visual of the hostages, there was an assumption that they were with this group," Almonares said.

First to be killed were two bandits nearest the most forward Ranger teams, who had inched their way undetected to about "5 meters" from the target.

The "disoriented" bandits then returned fire "indiscriminately" with automatic weapons and M-203s. Almonares said the heavy fog and rain contributed to the bandits' confusion.

It was only at this point, after the initial exchange of gunfire, that the Rangers realized that the "majority" of the bandits were massed behind the cluster of men they had first seen. Sabaya, it turned out later, was in this group. The hostages were therefore positioned between the two groups of bandits. Almonares said he believed that the four Abu Sayyaf casualties were part of the smaller group, which was nearer the Rangers.

The Rangers only saw the hostages, particularly the Burnhams because of their color, "15 minutes" after the firefight began—or midway through the 30-minute battle. (Almonares could not say whether Martin was still alive when he was sighted by his men.)

After spotting the Burnhams, Almonares said he ordered his men to "secure the hostages and continue the assault."

On hindsight, Almonares surmised that the bandits mistakenly expected government troops to come from the side of the creek that was guarded by Sabaya's bigger group.

Bandits on retreat

Almonares described what his men saw after the bandits had retreated and left the hostages along the muddy creek.

Gracia lay by the creek, face up, with a bullet wound in the right leg. Martin lay face down, partly covering her body, and his head, Almonares said, was pointing "toward us" or the side of the creek occupied by the Rangers.

He took particular note of the fact that Martin's back was bloodied, indicating that he had been shot from behind.

The Rangers found Yap about 10 meters from the Burnhams, lying face down in the creek, with her insides spilling out.

"Your guts don't just spill out because of bullet wounds," Almonares said, suggesting that Yap might have been hacked or stabbed.

In all, Almonares' unit was composed of 35 Rangers, four snipers and one Cafgu militiaman. They easily outnumbered the bandits.

The military's post-operation account placed the number of terrorists in that encounter at 14, minus the four who were killed.

Almonares said due credit must be given to his men for actions they took even before any shot was fired: That is, for their excellent tracking skills.

"It's not true that we employed K9s to locate the enemy," he said, alluding to earlier news reports that bloodhounds were used to get them closer to the encounter site.

He said a Marine contingent also scouring the jungle at the time was the one that used bloodhounds. "The only K9 we had with us was our lead scout, Pfc. Tamayo," the officer added in jest.

It was through Tamayo's expertise in "visual tracking" that the Rangers were able to make out the trail left—and sometimes deliberately concealed—by the Abu Sayyaf.

Tracking clues

According to Magbanua and Tuazon, the "clues" to the bandits' movements included footprints, just-chewed coconut meat and unripe *langka* (jackfruit)—an indication that the Abu Sayyaf was running out of food.

The bandits also apparently ate uncooked leaves along the way, including an edible variety of fern, a patch of which was freshly cut when encountered by the Rangers.

Fruit bearing trees that marked the way had mud smeared on their trunks, indicating that someone had just climbed up.

But perhaps the most telling—and now inadvertently comic—hint that the Rangers were hot on the heels of cash-rich kidnappers were three items they picked up on the edge of a river in the middle of the jungle.

"Two briefs and an unused toothbrush that was still in its case," recalled Tuazon.

"We thought that the briefs belonged to Abu Sayyaf because they were expensive brands, Penshoppe and Playboy. Ordinary woodcutters could not afford those," he added.

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Nightmare ends at Battle No. 17

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The yearlong nightmare of Martin and Gracia Burnham included at least 16 gun battles.

On June 7, after firefight No. 17, Gracia was finally free, shot in the thigh and weeping over her family photos as a helicopter flew her away.

Lying dead in the mud and pouring rain were four kidnappers and two hostages—Edibora Yap and Martin Burnham.

Martin's hand was constantly cuffed to a dog chain held by a rebel guard or tied to a tree. In every hail of gunfire, "Martin would grab Gracia by the hand as they ran for cover. He would never let go, even if his other hand was being pulled and strained by a rebel guard chained to him," said Reina Malonzo, a nurse held hostage for five months until she was freed last November.

"They were always praying," she said.

Martin, once burly but now thinning, was forever plotting an escape for the captives but never got the chance, according to Joel Guillo, an escaped hostage. "He would tell me, 'I'm ready to die because I would go to heaven,'" Guillo said.

The Burnhams found sustenance in family photos they had with them when kidnapped. Gracia, 43, wept often and worried about her children, said Sheila Tabunyag, a kidnapped nurse freed in November.

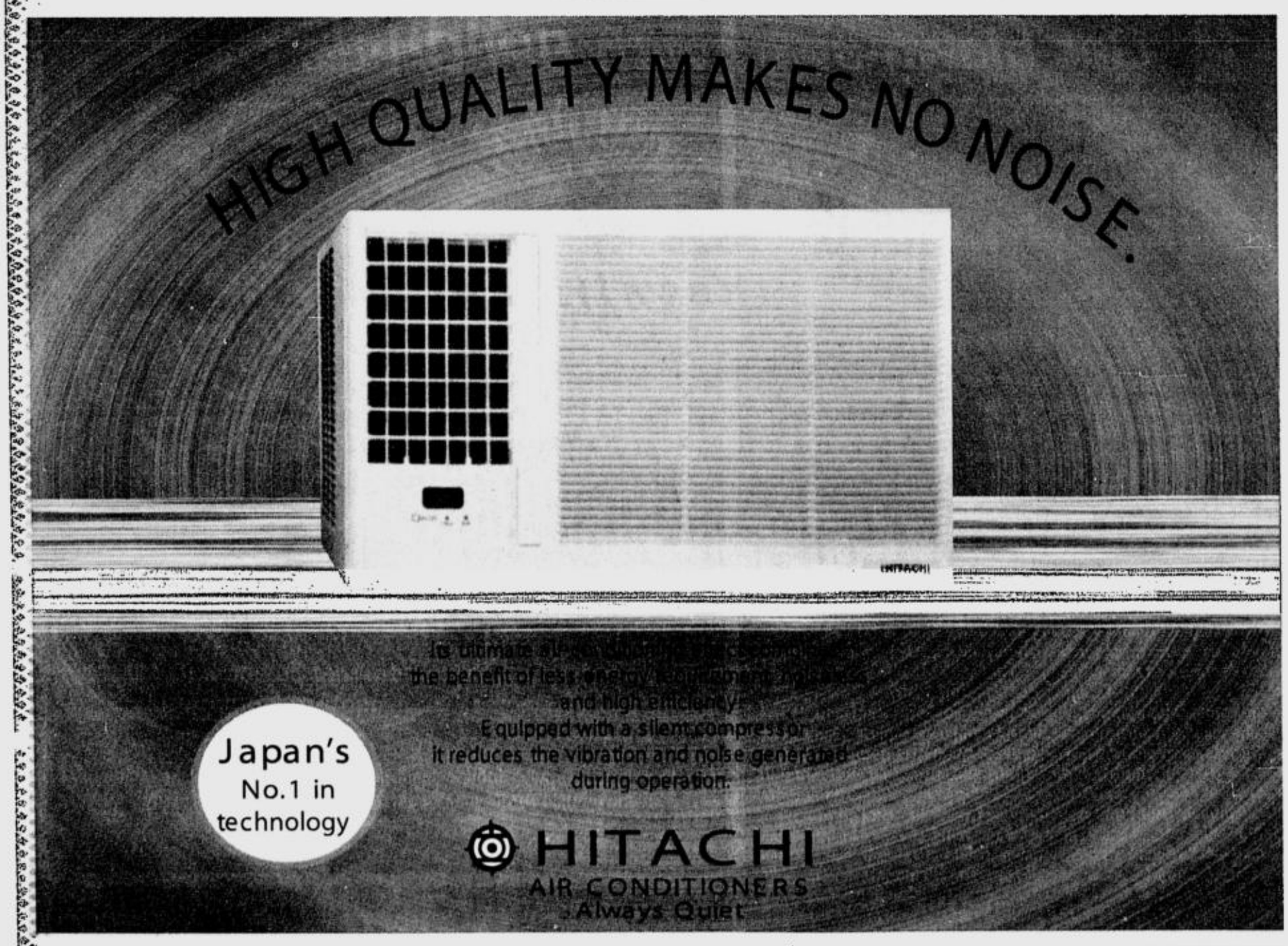
Malonzo said that when word of the Sept. 11 attacks came over the kidnappers' radios, they erupted in yells of "Allahu Akbar (God is great)!" The Burnhams were stunned, she said, with Gracia softly asking other hostages, "How can they rejoice over that?"

In the June 7 gun battle, the bullet that hit Gracia's right thigh threw her off a hammock, she said. Martin and Yap were both killed. It isn't clear which side fired the fatal shots, but US officials have said it doesn't matter because Martin clearly died because of the Abu Sayyaf abduction.

With two hostages dead and the other wounded, the question inevitably arose: Was it worth it?

"In any gunfight, things can happen bad," said Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster, who heads the US troops in the Philippines.

"I've told my people not to be disheartened by that, that Mrs. Burnham will have the opportunity to go home and raise her children, and that's an important piece of this." *AP*



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Iloilo cops tighten security for GMA visit

By N. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Police have tightened security for the visit today of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Senior Supt. Rolando Rabara, Iloilo City Police Office (ICPO) director, said his men have been placed on red alert amid reports that militant groups here are planning protest actions against the President.

Rabara said three platoons from the Iloilo Provincial Police Office would augment the city's police force.

He said lawmen were anticipating protest rallies in venues where the President was expected to visit.

The militant groups were expected to air their opposition to the controversial Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA) and other issues.

"We will allow the protesters to air their sentiments, display their placards and streamers as long as they don't get near the President," Rabara told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview yesterday.

Rabara said the police would exercise maximum tolerance but would not allow the protesters to come within 200 meters of the President.

The President's overnight visit here is the second since she took over the presidency from Joseph Estrada who was ousted in the People Power II uprising in January last year.

She is expected to arrive at 9 a.m. at the Iloilo City airport accompanied by Cabinet Official for Regional Development (Cord) and Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas, Senate President Franklin Drilon, Interior Secretary Joey Lina and other officials.

From the airport, the President will proceed to the University of San Agustin gymnasium where she will hand out grants for livelihood projects for fishermen and farmers.

The President will be the guest speaker of the national congress of the Sangguniang Kabataan at the Sarabia Manor Hotel. She will also attend the joint meeting of the Western Visayas Regional Development Council and the Regional Peace and Order Council at the same hotel.

The President will stay overnight at the Sarabia Manor Hotel. She will leave Iloilo around 8 a.m. tomorrow.

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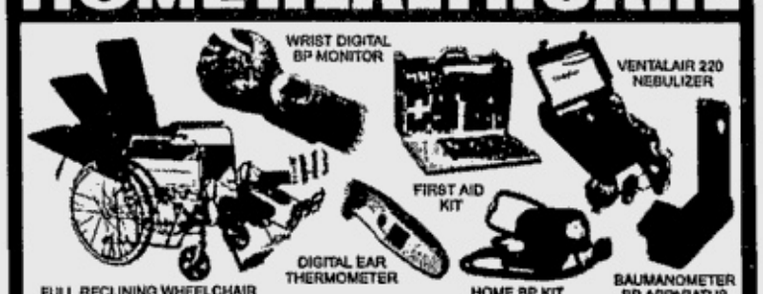

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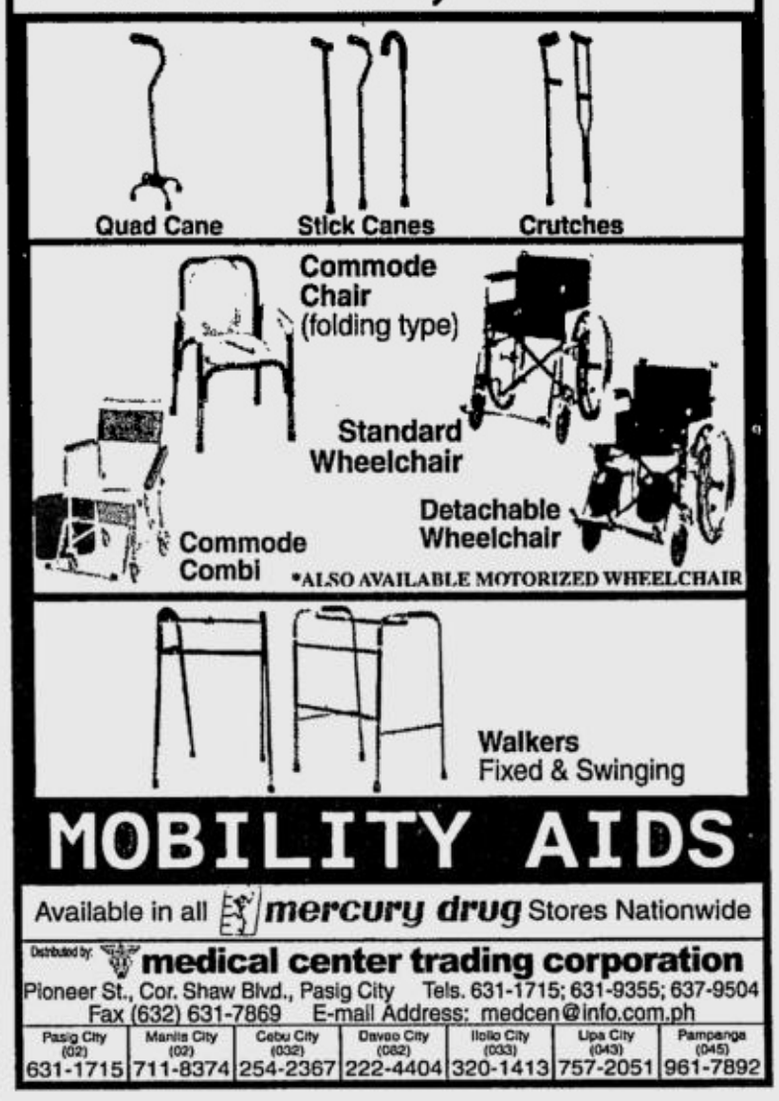

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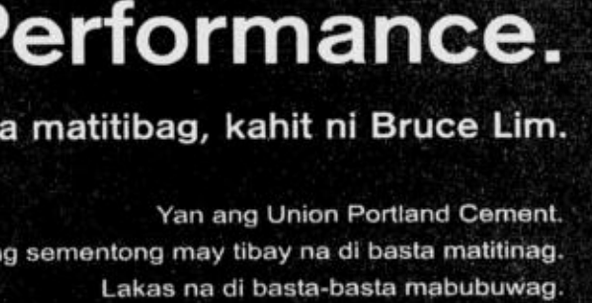

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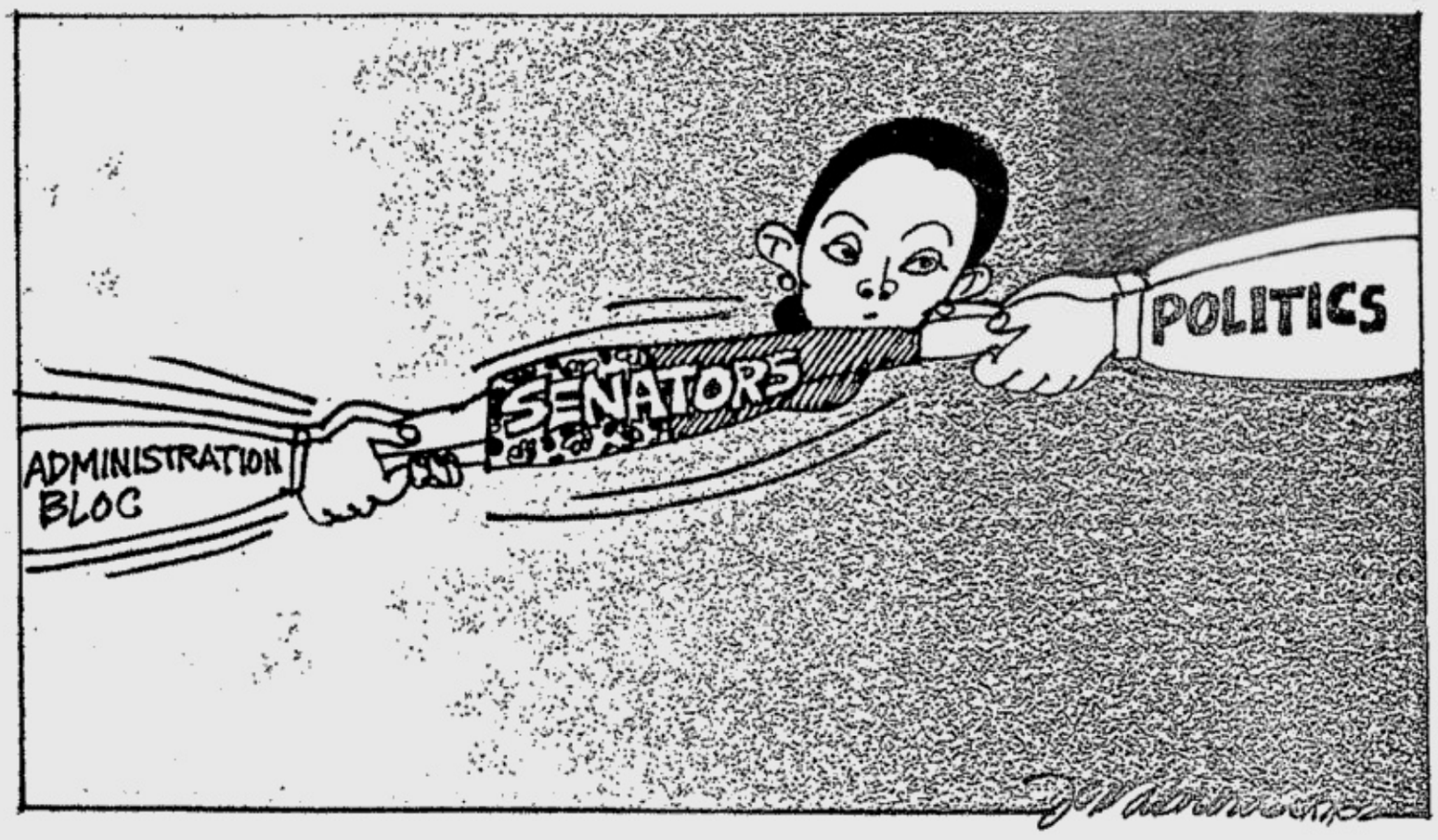

Bayani's mandate

DOES the shoe fit? The designation of Bayani Fernando as the new chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has been welcomed all around. Practically the only objection—if it can be called that—to the appointment of the three-term mayor of the country's shoe capital came from certain unnamed employees of the MMDA, who feared the prospect of working under a manager with a reputation for "strictness."

EDITORIAL

If only for this reason alone, we should add our voice to the chorus of praise. Any public official who inspires fear among the government employees who report to him because of his strong work ethic cannot be all bad.

But in fact Fernando, the mayor of Marikina City from 1992 to 2001, brings to his new post a track record that inspires confidence. When President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo announced the appointment, she recalled what she said to the newest member of her Cabinet. "When I called Bayani, I said, 'BF, what you did for Marikina, you must do for the whole of Metro Manila.'"

Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay, MMDA chair during President Joseph Estrada's interrupted term, lauded Fernando's appointment for the same reasons. "He has the right background, and the right credentials. He is, after all, the mayor responsible for turning Marikina into one of Metro Manila's success stories in local governance," Binay said.

What, exactly, has Fernando done "for" Marikina? In a word, he has made it one of the most livable cities in the country. The place is far from perfect, but the streets are clean, the traffic organized, the police responsive, the citizens proud. A good way to gauge the difference is to look at the government-run facilities in the area, such as the bustling sports complex in the city center, which are invariably well-maintained. This seems like a minor point, except that throughout the country most government buildings are monuments to decrepitude.

Perhaps the best place to see the fruits of Fernando's work is the Riverbanks development, a sprawling open space with riverside running paths, facilities for games and other community activities and even a new school manned by some of the country's leading professors. It is a hideaway in the middle of the concrete jungle, but one that is accessible to all.

Can Fernando, the recipient of various national and international awards for local governance, do for Metro Manila what he did for Marikina? It depends.

It is not enough that the President says she and her new appointee have complementary working styles. "Bayani is highly professional, straight to the point, no nonsense. Well that's my style too," she said last Thursday.

This makes for a good enough start, but the critical difference between being city mayor and being MMDA chair is political mandate—or the lack of it. Fernando's mandate as mayor was direct and unambiguous; his initiatives in local governance were tested at the polls. His mandate as MMDA chair, however, is indirect and contingent; it depends on the support he receives from the President who appointed him.

The question of political mandate is all-important, because for the new MMDA chair to solve the various problems afflicting the National Capital Region, he must be ready to risk making enemies. Fernando had his share during his three terms (and his decision to field his wife Marides to succeed him is not an altogether happy one). But his clear victories at the polls served to insulate his initiatives.

As *de facto* chief executive of one of the world's largest mega-cities, however, Fernando cannot afford to play it safe. He must take calculated risks. But he cannot do so if the President will second-guess his decisions, or if—like former Commission on Elections Chair Alfredo Benipayo—he will be showed the door when push comes to shove.

If the President expects Fernando to be a miracle worker, she must bless him with the next best thing to a direct political mandate: her complete faith.

Requiem for a great brother and father

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHY is everybody dying? In the last week alone, seven relatives, friends and neighbors passed away.

Art Borjal and Salvador Bigay, friends and journalistic colleagues. Art fought a long and gallant battle against cancer but lost in the end. Bigay, who was already an assistant business editor when I was a newcomer in the old Manila Chronicle in Intramuros, had a successful heart bypass surgery three years ago but was struck down by an undetected prostate cancer.

Long-time friend Vic Tagle, head of the Federation of Land Reform Farmers which successfully fought a notorious landgraber in the Marikina Watershed Reservation in Boso-Boso, Antipolo, had a successful colon cancer operation years ago but was killed by pneumonia. Our long-time associate in the FLRF, Leonardo Canlas, died almost at the same time of prostate cancer.

Our neighbor, University of the Philippines Professor Jose Socrates lived to a right old age of 80 before saying goodbye.

But the most painful of all was the sudden death of my own brother and his firstborn, "JJ," on the same day of different causes. They were not sick, were apparently healthy, then they were dead. One night my brother and I were talking outside the intensive care unit of the Philippine Kidney Institute where his son lay comatose, hooked to life support systems, the next night he was dead.

Since yesterday was Father's Day, I think there can be no better father than my brother. He accompanied his son until death. They lay in state side by side in the wake, and they were buried side by side at the Holy Cross Memorial Park.

My brother was in a Scout Jamboree in Baguio when "JJ," only 39, was felled by a stroke. He came home two days later and immediately proceeded to his son's bedside at the PKI. There the doctors told him that his son was brain-dead, there was no more hope, and he would die in a matter of hours.

We had a long talk there. Outwardly, he did not seem affected by the impending death of his son. He had always been a gregarious fellow, full of jokes, always telling stories. He loved to cook and loved his grandchildren. (Our compound in Malabon, since my own childhood, had always been full of children.)

I asked him about his blood pressure. Normal. Did he have any problem with his heart? None. We parted without any inkling that that would be our last time together.

The next evening, I received a phone call at home. The caller told me to go to the Emergency Room of the Manila Central University Hospital in Grace Park. My brother was there.

I never thought it was that serious but when I got there with my doctor daughter, he was stretched out on a bed with his chest exposed and a tube in his mouth. I though he was only unconscious, but my daughter immediately looked at the heart monitor. The electronic lines that monitor his heartbeat were running flat. He was dead.

The doctors were standing by forlorn, sad and disappointed.

"Was he dead on arrival?" I asked.

"No, he was still alive," replied a lady doctor, tears welling in her eyes. Apparently, they had just stopped pumping his chest to try to revive his heart.

What happened? I asked the younger son "PB" and other relatives who were there.

My brother had stayed at the bedside of "JJ" until he breathed his last that morning. That must have been heart-wrenching, watching your own son die slowly and there's nothing you can do about it.

"I have lost both my parents, two brothers and a sister, and my wife," he had told a friend that same day, "but the most painful is to lose a child."

He must have been grieving very deeply in his heart. That night, as he climbed the stairs of the funeral parlor, he suddenly had chest pains and couldn't breathe. They immediately brought him to the city clinic but the doctors there said he had to be taken to a bigger hospital. An ambulance took him to the MCU Hospital, the nearest. But it was too late.

* * *

Which brings me to a side issue. I don't know if they had tried to jolt his heart back to life with an electric shock with the crash cart that we see on television and the movies. As the lines on the heart monitor flatten and it emits a warning beep, a crash cart is wheeled in and two paddle-like electric flat irons are placed on the patient's and an electric jolt is sent to his heart. The heart starts pumping again and the patient is saved. I didn't see any crash cart in that emergency room. I don't know if they had wheeled one in earlier.

But many clinics and hospitals don't have it. The reason is that such a machine cost a bundle. But there is now a smaller and cheaper version. It is portable and costs only $20,000. It can save many lives if available in clinics and hospitals, in ambulances and even shopping malls. It is easy to operate. Instructions are printed on the machine itself.

Instead of donating expensive ambulances to cities and municipal governments, which the mayors use only as their own private chariots, why doesn't the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes donate these portable crash-carts, instead? It's only $20,000 each. For such a small amount, many lives can we saved.

* * *

After such a depressing subject, let's cheer up with our daily joke:

A condom is like the government: it stands up to inflation, halts production, destroys the next generation, protects a bunch of pricks, and gives us a sense of security while being screwed.

Life and death

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

ONE of the most woeful stories I ever heard was told to me by an elderly gentleman some years ago.

They had been celebrating Christmas of 1961 with much drinking and singing, he said, and decided in a burst of madness, or inspiration, to give cheer to a fellow Visayan, one who badly needed cheering. His name was Carlos P. Garcia. He had been president for the last five years, but now was no longer so. He had lost the elections, held the month before, in November, to Diosdado Macapagal. Theoretically, he was still president, till the end of the year. But for most of his former friends at least, he was no longer so.

When the revelers got to his gate, they found his house dark and quiet, except for one room in the kitchen which glowed with fluorescent light. They figured the house was empty, but being too soused to mind, burst into a Christmas carol, and laughed uproariously. To their surprise, a maid came out of the house and bid them in. The owners of the house were in, she said, and were asking them over.

True enough, the Garcias were home, and played the perfect host, offering them the bountiful repast of Christmas and more libation. But all of them could not help thinking how only the Christmas before, indeed only a few months before, the house buzzed with laughter and furious activity. Truly, they thought, sobriety piercing their vaporous brains like a shaft of sunlight in the dark, defeat was an orphan while victory had many parents. They wondered how it was like in the Macapagal household that very moment.

I remembered that story when I went last Friday to the National Library to attend the 31st death anniversary of Carlos P. Garcia. The event wasn't a complete reversal of fortune, an utter vindication of the things he stood for, but it rang quietly with echoes of it. It drew in a gaggle of Bol-anons from Bohol and Metro Manila and well-wishers like myself. A small exhibit containing Garcia's speeches and literary endeavors—he dabbled in poetry and was called the Bard of Bohol—and some pictures from an exceptionally long career as a public servant told of a life richly lived. But more than all that, there was Garcia's signal contribution to the nation, written in big letters on the stage:

"Carlos P. Garcia: Author of the Filipino First Policy."

That is what Garcia will always be remembered for. Whatever else he did, it was his promotion of a Filipino First policy that stands as his supreme achievement. Its most immediate expression of course was economic protectionism, limiting as it did foreign ownership of local companies to 40 percent and encouraging consumers through various incentives to buy local products. But the Filipino First policy went beyond that, it was much more than that.

Fernando Campos, Garcia's son-in-law, would say later that the animating force of that policy was really a tremendous faith in the capabilities of the Filipino. In the course of public life, Garcia had developed that faith in the Filipino. He believed that given a nurturing social, political and economic environment, the Filipino's talents would burst forth resplendently. He believed that given a little help from friends, particularly from upstairs, the Filipino would be able to chart his own course, free from pressure or dictation by other countries.

Not a bad pass for someone who served as vice president to Ramon Magsaysay, the original "America's boy," and who drew much criticism from Claro M. Recto as a result of it. But when his time came, Garcia would show that his moral anchor lay beyond that of his former boss to that of the country's founding fathers. In the course of expounding on and defending the Filipino First policy, Garcia would repeatedly invoke Jose Rizal and Apolinario Mabini and the other visionaries of the past who dreamt of building a strong and independent nation. Garcia's administration was by no means ideal, and Filipino First had its own flaws, sparking greed and vested interest among the country's elite as much as inspiring pioneering initiative and high-mindedness among them, but it was a bold vision. And one that might have brought the country to greatness.

Alas, it was seed thrown on barren ground. Garcia's biographers have pointed out that it was an idea that was ahead of its time. In a way it was. It came at a time when public sentiment was vastly pro-American, or more accurately pro-"special relations," which is what pro-Americanism has always meant in this country. It came at a time when, as someone put it, Americans were regarded as nothing less than gods in this country.

But I myself wonder at what time during the last half-century a Filipino First policy might have been introduced and prospered. I wonder at what time during the last half-century, a president, or would-be president, might have taken a staunchly nationalistic stand and gotten elected, or reelected as a result of it. Jovito Salonga, who was consistently number one in the senatorial race, presided over the rejection of the US bases in 1991. The following year, he ended up fifth in the presidential race.

Last Friday, Garcia's relatives and friends met to mark his 31st death anniversary and to recall the nationalist vision he bequeathed to his people. Again, the time seemed most unpropitious for it, coming as it did when public sentiment was vastly pro-American, or pro-Balikatan, which is what pro-Americanism has now become. Indeed, when Americans are regarded as nothing less than gods in this country. My own mind wandered to a Christmas scene in 1961, and I thought to myself, some people are more victorious in defeat while others are more defeated in their victory.

Some people are more alive in death while others are more dead in life.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Homeruns

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE INQUIRER recently bannered that Sen. Loren Legarda was "jumping ship" after she made some statements about the Senate impasse that appeared wide open to "speculation," and flew to Antique for the Independence Day observance there in a private plane with opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara, at the latter's invitation. Legarda's office immediately issued a statement denying any intention on her part to bolt the administration party and reiterating her support for President Macapagal. Of course the popular lady senator should have known that arriving in Antique with Angara, a scenario doubtless orchestrated by his ever-reliable supporter from their UP days, Gov. Salvacion Z. Perez, would cause tremendous speculation, especially with the precarious situation in the Senate. Another reason is the widely acknowledged fact, as pointed out by political pundits as well as politicians such as Sen. Manuel Villar, that there could be no room at the top in Lakas for Legarda's well-known higher ambition since it is already occupied by another woman.

* * *

For politicians, however, meriting headlines is hitting a homerun; thus, even though Legarda found herself in some kind of a dilemma, she scored a homerun. But obviously the one who profited more was Angara, who eagerly referred to himself before Legarda's cheering fellow Antiqueños as her "escort" (reminiscent of JFK's "I'm the man who accompanied Jacqueline Kennedy to Paris"). That singular act has triggered the speculation of an Angara-Legarda tandem for 2004 aborning.

One of Angara's geniuses seems to be to orchestrate strategic maneuvers. I saw this for myself during the rump session in the Senate: he sat in his chair, uttering not a word but just smiling broadly as Sen. Nene Pimentel, the only other lawyer of the opposition, grew hoarser defending the legality of its coup. Yet Angara emerged the most powerful of the opposition senators as he captured the chairmanship of three super-committees, in addition to his old Constitutional Amendments and Revision of laws. These are ways and means (taxes and revenues) from Sen. Ralph Recto; blue ribbon, from Sen. Joker Arroyo, and justice and human right, from Sen. Francis Pangilinan.

* * *

As administration senators view it, what this means is that as ways and means chair Angara will steer the passage of the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle (SPAV) law to be in conformity with the bill that, as Arroyo recently alleged in Boy Abunda's talk show, Angara's Accra law office had drafted together with Lehman Brothers for the Bankers' Association of the Philippines. Senators Recto and Villar, however, have expressed concern that the SPAV bill favors the banks but is of little benefit to the borrowers. At the recent gathering of Lakas politicians at the Palace, they relayed this concern to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, stressing that in its present form the SPAV bill will not pass unless the borrowers get a better deal.

As chair of the blue ribbon, Angara is not expected to continue the investigation of the coco levy fund initiated by Arroyo some months back, which would have opened up the role of Accra in the intricate layering of the coco fund investments in San Miguel Corp. and UCPB. Moreover, the bill sponsored by Pangilinan that seeks the increase of the salaries of judges and court personnel, had been in the Senate calendar since early this year but it had been opposed on the floor by Angara who sought a substitute bill. If the reorganization prevails, it would be the Angara bill instead of Pangilinan's that would be pushed. Pangilinan's colleagues argue that it is the same dog but with a different collar; but in politics, it's who can claim the credit that will matter.

* * *

New Comelec Chief Benjamin Abalos made some people nervous with his latest statement wherein he said he would help Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco get through the impeachment case being filed against her in the House. For after all, Abalos reasoned, "we are one family at the Comelec." Some political pundits, including Star's Max Soliven, have queried whether Abalos, in his desire to "unite" the poll body, is not being too overeager to play ball with his cantankerous subordinate. Sure, he is the father of the Comelec family, but as in any family, if one member errs the father should cooperate with the law.

* * *

Earlier I detailed some of the allegations in the formal complaint to be submitted to the House by 23 complainants representing 15 prestigious NGOs when sessions resume next month. This complaint is expected to be the basis for the impeachment resolution to be filed against Tancangco, which now has the signatures of over 50 House members (71 signatures are needed to raise it to the Senate).

Among the complaints are Tancangco's failure to automate the vote-counting as chair of the Comelec modernization committee and her "unjustified" bias for the voters registration and information system (VRIS) by awarding this project costing a whopping P6.5 billion to Photokina, even if the Comelec only had a budget of P1.2 billion. By contrast, she was quick to declare a failure of bidding for the automated counting because the budget was only P500 million while the clustered bids were at P750 million. She also allegedly allowed to be spent what could run up to P500 million for the precinct-mapping project even if the "wasteful expenses" were not authorized by law. Tancangco also boycotted en banc sessions and incurred 44 unexcused absences, or 42 percent of all sessions, from January 2001 to February 2002, while her faction refused to act on the appointments of at least 156 election officers, regional directors and provincial supervisors; up to now these positions remain vacant.

Is Ediborah Yap a hero or heroine?

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

LAST June 10, the INQUIRER's banner was "Ediborah a hero—Gracia." The accompanying news carried the following quote from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: "Gracia herself told me that Ediborah was a hero."

I'm sure by now everybody knows Gracia is none other than the widow of the late missionary Martin Burnham who, together with Ediborah, were killed while being rescued by Army scout rangers from the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

The use of the word "hero" in the headline did not sit well with some readers. "She is a heroine, not a hero," they said. If the INQUIRER thinks Ediborah is a hero, then she must be a "he," one reader commented.

The proper (or should I say politically correct) way to describe Ediborah provoked a lively discussion among the editors. Those who believe "heroine" is the right word argued that it is consistent with the present day practice of reputable newspapers of avoiding the use of words and phrases that are derogatory or otherwise promote gender differences.

To illustrate their point, the "pro-hero" editors explained that newspapers rarely use the words "stewards" or stewardesses" to identify the people who serve airplane passengers. The gender-free description for them is "flight attendants."

By the same token, women, whether single or married, are referred to as "Ms" (no period after the letter "s") instead of "Mrs." Thus, former President Cory Aquino is Ms Aquino, not Mrs. Aquino, in subsequent references in news reports. This style is meant to emphasize that a woman's civil status is not material in determining how she should be addressed or identified.

On the other hand, some editor see nothing wrong with the word "heroine" because it is the generally accepted description for women who perform noble or outstanding deeds.

The "conservative" approach (to use the words of the pro-heroine editors) is based on the assumption that, until an authoritative English language institution rules on the correct usage of "hero" or "heroine," the traditional practice of making a gender distinction for these words should be respected.

Politically correct

I have always been amused by discussions on politically correct words and phrases. There is merit in the argument that words and phrases should be neutral when they affect or refer to people. Whenever possible, statements should say what they mean without demeaning or putting their subject in a bad light.

But sometimes the proponents of political correctness go overboard in the promotion of their cause. Unless one gets a regular update on politically correct words and phrases, some of these terms can be confusing.

Here are examples of common words and their supposedly politically correct counterpart. If you are short in height, you are "vertically challenged." Those who do not meet the criteria of beauty contests are not "ugly," they are "beauty-challenged." For people who are conscious about their age, calling them old is considered rude, the correct term is "chronologically challenged."

If you want to make the day of someone who has gained unwanted pounds, tell him (if you are asked about it) that he has a "full figure," not fat or obese. A person who has the dreaded AIDS virus is not an "AIDS victim," he is a person with AIDS. Under the same principle, the proper way to describe a woman who allows men to have sex with her for a fee is a "prostituted woman" and not a "prostitute."

I'll stop at this point before you get bored or confused. The point I'm driving at is the cause of easy-to-understand English is at risk if politically correct words are demanded whenever a person wants to express his thoughts on any subject under the sun.

Going back to the hero vs. heroine discussion, in a bid to settle the issue, the editors turned to the INQUIRER research staff to check if there is any material in their database that can shed light on it.

The staff came up with the following material from "The American Heritage Book of English Usage: A Practical and Authoritative Guide to Contemporary English, 1996."

"Many writers now consider *hero*, long restricted to males, to be a gender-neutral term. Its use to refer to men or women is increasing; 63 percent of the Usage Panel approves of the word as used to describe Rosa Parks, the woman who galvanized the civil rights movement in the United States by refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus.

"The word *heroine* is still useful and acceptable, however, in referring to the principal female character of a fictional work, such as a novel or dramatic production: *Jane Eyre is a well-known literary heroine.* Ninety-four percent of usage panelists accept this usage."

After analyzing the material quoted above and the arguments presented on the issue, I think Ediborah should be described a heroine, not a hero. I do not see how calling her a "hero" will contribute to the cause of gender equality or political correctness. The word "heroine" does not have any connotation that will diminish the heroic acts she performed.

Whether or not the feminists will agree with my opinion is a big question mark. I just have to brace up for their reaction, if any.

Bad grammar

My column last week ("Disappointing letter") elicited varying reactions from the readers. Some agreed with my observation about the deterioration in the use of English by Filipinos. Others felt I was unfair to the student concerned considering that I do not know the circumstances under which she learned English.

The letter I found most interesting came from an American living in the United States whose identity I shall keep under wraps. He wrote: "I am an American who reads your column (on the Internet) with great interest. The 'Disappointing letter' made me realize again how high Filipino standards of English are.

"I know several Filipinos (including my soon-to-be fiancée) who writes English so well that I feel hard-pressed to keep up with them in that regard. Encourage the writer of that letter to study to improve his English; he has a good basic foundation on which to build.

"Be proud of such high standards, and maintain them! Many educated Americans write no better than the writer of the letter you so thoroughly castigated. Even most of our newspapers print articles which cause English teachers and many readers to cringe. Our standards here have slipped badly.

"(On the other hand, if I could ever learn Pilipino as well as the writer of the 'Disappointing letter' has learned English, I would be quite pleased with that accomplishment, although I would strive for greater improvement)."

*The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The **Readers' Advocate**" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City." Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.*

UP beloved

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

JUST six years short of being a century old, the University of the Philippines and all its other campuses in the university system will once again welcome the fortunate few who passed the UP college admission test (Upcat). If I remember right, the latest figures are: out of about 65,000 prospective high school graduates who take the test each September, only an estimated 10 percent get "qualified" to enroll in UP. But how many actually get there?

There was the boy who with only a Mongol pencil, reproduced for me, by sight, an ancient map of the "Sultania de Jolo." Samples of his other drawings showed how easily he could have passed the screening for qualification into the UP College of Fine Arts. An Upcat passer, he couldn't go because according to his parents they could not make the "sacrifices" it would entail to keep him there.

There are other reasons as weird, if not more so, that prevent many of the country's best and brightest from acquiring what I personally believe is still the best education this country can offer its youth.

Generally, however, the reason why many Upcat passers get only to keep that precious notice of qualification as a reminder of a dream that might have been—a UP education—is plain and simple poverty.

Many are the heart-rending stories I have heard about UP students who even send part of their STFAP allowance home, already meager as these are, to help their families, and try to make do with a single meal of instant noodles a day.

Among the 10 percent who qualified in the Upcat for this school year were two girls from a public high school here. Their school, typical of public high schools in the provinces, does not have a library to speak of, and they have not seen a single volume of an encyclopedia in their lives.

Some years ago there was a proposal to "regionalize" the Upcat, with a corresponding quota of slots for each region. This meant that high school students in the provinces would just be competing against those within the same region, to at least give them a fairer chance to qualify.

But nothing came out of it and these girls, whose only access to newspapers was an occasional copy of a tabloid passed around by a classmate, had to compete with those who could access the Internet from their homes.

Yet despite all things being unequal, the two of them in their class of over 500, passed and did well enough to qualify for entrance into the Los Baños campus. But neither of them got there. And their stories made me cry.

Let me just tell you one of them; let me just tell you about Sarah, which of course is not her real name.

Sarah lives in Indanan, some 5 kilometers from her school in the town of Jolo. She has to walk about 2 kilometers to the dirt road plied by the passenger vehicles she takes to school. There is no water nor electricity in the nipa-and-bamboo structure that she and her family call home. A stream, their only source of water, is almost a kilometer away, to which Sarah walks when it is still dark for her daily bath.

About 7:00 every evening, a brother-in-law who drives a PUV for a living, arrives home, detaches his car battery and with it lights up both his house and that of his in-laws, each with a single incandescent bulb. Right after supper his wife, Sarah's sister, switches off their light so that Sarah and her siblings next door can continue studying with the available power.

Sarah should have been valedictorian of her class, but she was made salutatorian due to a "technicality." Her schooling was interrupted because she had to quit for a year so that another sibling could continue in college.

But it was worth the sacrifice because this elder sister graduated also this year from a local college with a degree in mathematics, magna cum laude. Sarah and all her other siblings excel in math, although it is hard to tell from which of their parents they inherited their mathematical genes as neither got beyond fourth grade.

A week after graduation last April, when other Upcat passer elsewhere were preparing the requirements for enrollment in UP, Sarah reported for a 7:00-5:00 summer job so she would have money for her enrollment in June.

But unlike other unfortunate Upcat qualifiers elsewhere in the country who for reasons of poverty cannot make it to UP this school year, Sarah stands as a more tragic figure. In the unique circumstances into which she was born, part of her birthright is a responsibility that is at once urgent and a life-long commitment.

Because she is a Tausug and a Muslim, she carries with her the burden of the religious and cultural minority everywhere in the world: to be as good, if not better, than the majority.

In the meantime, Zamzamin Ampatuan, recently appointed Southern Philippines Development Authority executive director, is hard put trying to trace over P100 million in livelihood funds that his predecessor, Randolph Parcasio had allegedly disbursed.

And ARMM Governor Parouk Hussin does not even know where to begin looking for those billions in unliquidated cash advances of the previous administration.

Sarah's hut, by the way, is within sight of an unfinished structure, constructed as a beach resort hotel by the autonomous government, abandoned, an empty shell now haunted by the ghosts of a people's aspiration for "self-determination."

Haven't you ever wondered why our story is a never-ending tragedy?

* * *

Comments welcome at noralynmustafa@yahoo.com or noralynmustafa3@my.smart.com.ph

Resentment cannot inspire a nation

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

I PRAY that the 2002 Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) will indeed have the nearly unanimous support that DepEd's spokespersons claim it has. Parents, teachers, students, and yes, even commentarists, ought to unite with the Department of Education, to help turn the ship ever so slightly, always in the right direction.

To that end, and that end alone, let me be one small voice on this first day of the DepEd's national pilot test of the new curriculum, to enumerate issues of vital national interest that should inform the coming debate on its permanent implementation.

Supporters of the 2002 BEC should show, for example, how the massive reductions in science teaching time at the high school level, and the outright deletion of the science subject in Grades 1 and 2, will contribute to the human resources goals of the Philippines Medium Term Development and other sustainable economic development plans. These explicitly call for quantum leaps in the number of highly skilled technical and scientific personnel to boost Philippine productivity and international competitiveness. Perhaps the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) should examine this aspect of the 2002 BEC which will produce high school students even less prepared for college work in the sciences than before.

Common sense also informs the common man. If we want more medical doctors, biologists, engineers, agriculturists, chemists, physicists, airplane pilots, computer programmers, 3D animators, mathematicians, if we want more scientists and technologists, we've got to teach more, not less, science. This flaw in the curriculum is unforgivable. It must not be part of the 2003 BEC.

Now I also care deeply, that the Philippines be able to produce its share of poets and historians, playwrights and essayists, musicians and economists. But the 2002 BEC is a deeply divided curriculum over the contentious and emotionally charged issues of language and medium of instruction. For example, English is prescribed for the "tool areas" of math and science, while Filipino (aka imperial Tagalog) rules the Makabayan learning area. Early childhood educators argue that the vernacular, whatever it is, is the most effective. Pragmatists retort that English, not Tagalog or Cebuano or Ilokano, is the de facto world language of this century and we ought to get with it.

For me, it is communication and not language that really matters. All that matters is what really works. But how do we know what really works?

I am deeply disappointed and puzzled by the DepEd for canceling the Filipino students' participation in the international testing of literacy and comprehension. DepEd Memo No.9 dated Jan. 17, 2002 cancelled our part in the 2002 Progress in Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) of hundreds of thousands of students worldwide. The memo cited budgetary constraints, yet two months later the DepEd launched, guess what, the 2002 National Literacy Awards, complete with expensive trimedia campaign, perhaps to congratulate ourselves on just how full of literacy we really are.

By withdrawing from PIRLS, we have missed an opportunity to get objective, not emotional or anecdotal data, on the true state of literacy among our students and how we can improve upon it, because diagnosis comes with the study. The DepEd has also decided that we shall not join in the 2003 edition of the TIMSS, the international mathematics and science testing of students. Also, the NEAT and NSAT, our national testing in English, Science, Math and Filipino, have both been reduced to small-sample testing only. This is like running a school with no final examinations or report cards. It gives new and twisted meaning to the expression, "no news is good news." The DepEd cannot claim success without participating in these tests because they tell us what works and what doesn't.

This brings me to a concern expressed by our own newspaper over the neglect of history as the centerpiece of the Makabayan learning area. I too, believe that the past is the surest guide to the future. But we must guard against the tendency, so evident in our nationalists, to use history as a generator of resentment, which some have elevated to the level of political ideology.

Resentment is a powerful and complex emotion, an amalgam of buried grudge and righteous outrage over an unjust past. But it can also blind us to priorities. The war on terrorism is a good example, where the return of the United States to these shores has been seized upon by nationalists as a way of settling old scores, fighting old battles and trying to finish the unfinished revolution, a hundred and six years on.

A small residue of that grand historical resentment also exists in me, but my own attitude is that America needs every ally it can get right now. She is under deadly attack and more vulnerable than we think. Her light could be extinguished. Her enemy is determined, resourceful and mad. Her destruction would be a catastrophe from which humanity would not recover for centuries, if ever. Imperfect as it is, we have an enormous stake in the survival of that particular model of democracy and freedom. Millions of our countrymen now call America their home, and the world aspires to her unprecedented liberty and prosperity, as we do. Like it or not, we are on the frontlines of the war and were among the first to take casualties before Sept. 11.

Hearing the generous and understanding words of Martin Burnham's brother, absolving our military of all guilt for his death, I must admit that my sense of nation is subordinate to my sense of humanity. The future is infinitely more important than the past. The Burnhams, noble human beings, remind us that resentment cannot create or inspire a nation. Only nobility of spirit can.

Why are Bayan Muna members getting killed?

WHY are Bayan Muna members being killed?

This was what Bayan Muna president and Rep. Satur Ocampo asked his fellow House members in a privilege speech last April 17, 2002. Ka Satur appealed in behalf of the murdered local leaders and members of Bayan Muna and others who have been victimized by blanket repression, hoping that his appeal would not fall on deaf ears.

Eighteen local leaders and members of our party have been killed all over the country. The most recent victims were the couple Expedito and Manuela Albarillo of Barangay Calsapa, San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro. They were killed last April 8 by suspected elements of the 16th Infantry Batallion of the Philippine Army (IBPA), under the command of Lieutenant Dimapinto.

Expedito, a Bayan Muna coordinator and barangay councilor, had eight gunshot wounds. One of his eyes was gouged out and the back of his skull was cracked open. His wife Manuela was shot under her right eye and her neck was shattered by the bullet. The slain couple left behind eight children.

Sadly, just last month, four more in Oriental Mindoro were slain in cold blood. The Apolinar family, Ruben, a former policeman, Rodriga, his wife and a teacher of San Teodoro Central School, and their adopted eight-year-old daughter Nina Angela, of Barangay Ilag, San Teodoro were massacred by alleged members of the 52nd Recon Company under the 204th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army. The suspects peppered their house with bullets on the night of May 20. The Apolinar couple were both Bayan Muna barangay coordinators.

On May 28, in Calapan City, Edilberto "Choy" Napoles was aboard a tricycle with Pamalakaya organizer Ruel Landicho, when he was shot and killed allegedly by Larry Aparato and Aniano Flores, who are reportedly members of a death squad under the command of Col. Jovito Palaran of the 204th IB. Napoles is the latest and 12th victim to be killed in Oriental Mindoro. Fortunately, Landicho only suffered gunshot wounds in his right arm.

With the deaths of the Apolinar family and Napoles, the death toll in Mindoro has risen to 12. It should be noted that from March 12 to May 28, eight activists have already been killed in this province. Aside from the Albarillo couple, the Apolinar family and Napoles, 73-year-old Emilio Santillan, our municipal coordinator in Nauja, was killed allegedly by elements of the 68th IBPA last March 12, and Ildefonso Brocal of Sta. Rita Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro, was allegedly killed by the 16th IBPA last March 20.

In most of these incidents, the suspected offenders—based on circumstantial evidence and the information given by witnesses and survivors—were alleged members or agents of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

We are hard put to dispel the allegations against the AFP because since April last year, Oriental Mindoro has been crawling with military men. Currently deployed in the province under the 204th Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army are the 16th IBPA, 68th IBPA, 56th IBPA, 2nd Scout Rangers Company, 18th Scout Rangers Company, 52nd Recon Company, 6th Special Forces Company and 34th Special Forces Company. What ordinary criminal would have the motive to kill Bayan Muna leaders and members? We could not find anyone with the motive except the military which listed the slain victims in its order of battle (OB).

Recently, we found out that 15 families in Barangay Calsapa, San Teodoro, suddenly evacuated their homes and farms out of fear of being killed as well. We do not know where they are now.

In light of these incidents, we are again asking: Why are Bayan Muna members being killed?

Does it have something to do with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's red-smear job on Bayan Muna vice chair, Rep. Crispin Beltran? Is there an official or unofficial government policy of systematic repression of Bayan Muna? Why are our members being killed? Who are behind these killings?

Bayan Muna is a legitimate political party registered with the Commission on Elections. The May elections, in which our party garnered the highest number of votes among party-list participants and won the maximum number of three seats in the House of Representatives, attest to the people's unquestioned endorsement of Bayan Muna. We won on the basis of our activist platform of change. Why is our party being viciously attacked by the armed elements of the state? Is this the reason our party is being made the target of political repression?

We cannot let this situation pass or continue. We have been looking for ways to obtain justice for the victims and prevent a recurrence of these incidents.

—ROSEMARIE ROQUE, public information desk, Bayan Muna, 28 Magiting St., Teachers' Village, Diliman, Quezon City

LETTERS — PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SK getting blamed unfairly

ONE argument being peddled for the abolition of the Sangguniang Kabataan is the alleged vulnerability of SK leaders to graft and corruption.

However, behind the veneer of allegedly protecting the youth is the ugly face of hypocrisy. It is fallacious to say that to protect the youth from graft and corruption the organization where they can learn hands-on the virtues of participatory democracy and governance should be abolished. What should be obliterated is corruption itself, not the bastion of youth empowerment.

With respect to the alleged low turnout for the SK special registration last May 20-21, the Commission on Elections has estimated that five million young men and women, who were 15 years of age but less than 18, were qualified to register. About 1.7 million of them registered last Dec. 10 to 26. Thus, only 3.5 million still had to register last May.

There are 41,926 barangays all over the country, meaning that an average of 80 young men and women were supposed to register during the two-day registration. Since the registration booths centers were open for nine hours, it should not be surprising that the media saw only a handful of registrants when they visited the centers. So until the Comelec releases the registration figures, it would be premature be unfair to conclude that the registration was failure and use this as a reason for calling for the abolition of the SK.

With the advent of the Local Government Code of 1991, the youth were called upon to actively join in local governance. But even during the earlier years of our terms, we have been praying for reforms in our mandate through the enactment of the SK Reform Bill which we submitted to Congress. Six years have passed and we are still waiting. Is it fair to put all the blame on us?

—RICHARD ALVIN M. NALUPTA, president, National Sangguniang Kabataan, 4/F Bookman Bldg., Quezon Avenue, Quezon City

Life of a priest isn't boring

WHENEVER I read unpleasant news about priests, I feel very sad. I have a high regard and respect for priests, for they are spiritual guides and counselors. So, it's quite difficult to accept that some of them have lost their vocation and reneged on their commitment to serve God and the people. Though they are also human like all of us, I am still sadly affected.

I was privileged to have a brother who was a priest (our eldest), and whose life I observed closely with my frequent visits before he died in 1988. He had a daily schedule of varied activities. Aside from his priestly duties, he was into writing, photography, philately and coin collecting. A lover of classical music, he left a collection of great operas and music tapes of world-renowned composers. He was a voracious reader, leaving hundreds of books, which were donated to a seminary. Whenever he had some spare time, he would solve crossword puzzles.

He was also active in Church-sponsored organizations. Among them was the Christian-Muslim Kapatiran, composed of Muslim youth to whom he showed deep affection and concern. I understand that Kapatiran's aim is to enhance Christian-Muslim bonding for genuine brotherhood. Whenever the Muslim students were in Manila, he would bring them to tourist places like Tagaytay. I was even amazed that he remembered all his young Muslim friends and called them by their names.

Even then I realized that a priest's life need not be lonely or boring. It is said that those who think of becoming priests should regard the religious life "not as the denial of anything in the world, but as the perfecting of all its good in Christ."

—ADELFA L. ETRUISTE, E. Glinoga Street, Barangay Castillo, Pitogo, Quezon

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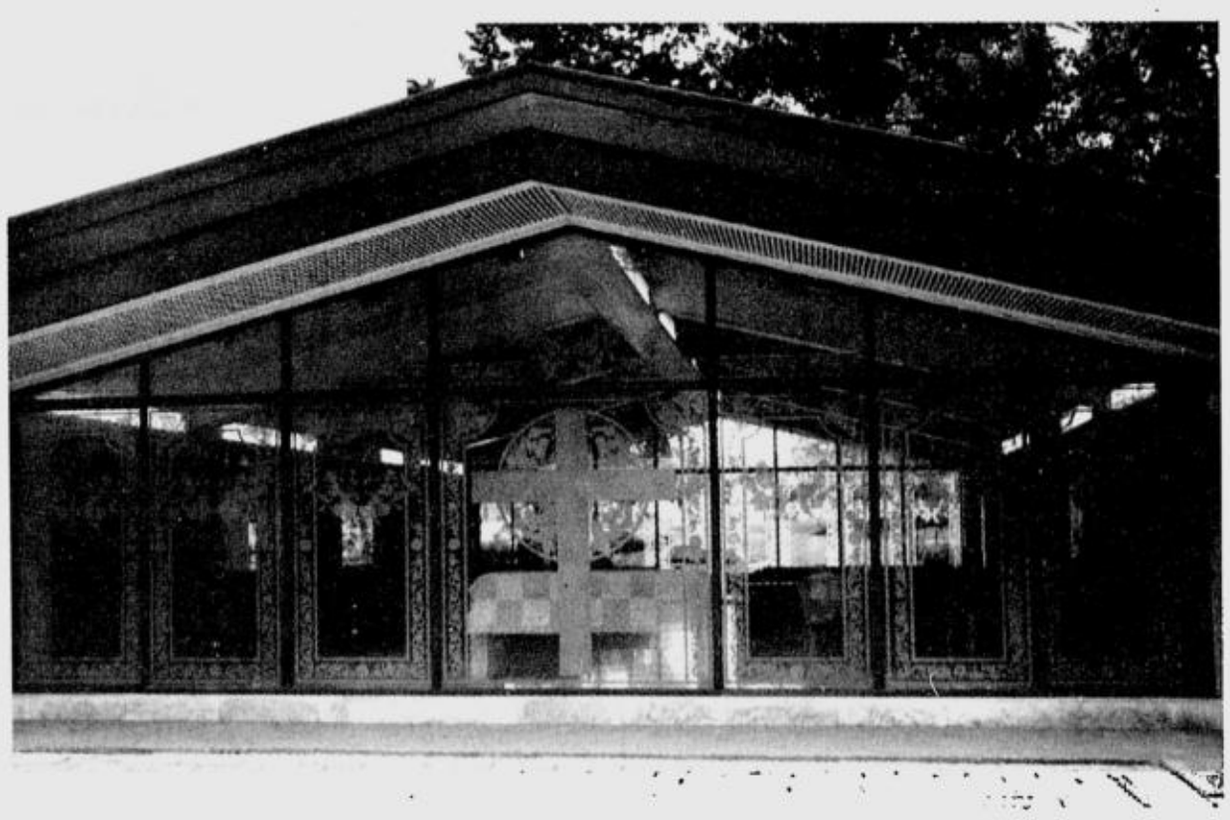

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Bush set to go to war vs Saddam?

NEWS ANALYSIS

Ron Fournier

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush is determined to topple Saddam Hussein, perhaps with military force, despite qualms of some US military leaders, lawmakers and allies. He may feel compelled to act without warning.

In recent weeks, the administration has intensified its rhetoric against Saddam and unveiled a new military policy that allows for preemptive action against enemies armed with weapons of mass destruction.

"When we see evil—I know it may hurt some people's feelings, it may not be what they call diplomatically correct—but I'm calling evil for what it is," Bush said this week. "Evil is evil, and we will fight it with all our might."

The president may choose diplomatic pressure or covert action to undermine Saddam. If he decides to go to war, there will be more choices—such as whether to follow the blueprint of his father, George H.W. Bush, or launch an unconventional surprise attack.

Behind closed doors at the White House, the president reacted with dismay to reports that US military leaders were lobbying against an Iraqi invasion anytime soon.

"I don't know what they're talking about," two senior US officials quoted the president as saying. They interpreted the remark to mean Bush hasn't heard or isn't moved by such concerns.

Most analysts assume Bush would slowly generate support inside and outside the country with a series of warnings to Saddam and a deliberate marshaling of US troops. The world saw the Persian Gulf War coming for six months before Bush's father ordered the attack.

But there may be little or no warning this time.

Given notice, Saddam might strike the United States first or help a terrorist group do so. He could become cornered and desperate—and he is presumably armed with a greater arsenal of deadly weapons than in the Gulf War.

"We're now beginning to understand that we can't wait for these folks to deliver the weapons of mass destruction and see what they do with them before we act," said Philip D. Zelikow, a University of Virginia history professor who worked for the National Security Council under Bush's father. "And we're beginning to understand that we might not want to give people like Saddam Hussein advance warning that we're going to strike."

Saddam, meanwhile, seems to be showing more aggressiveness. On Friday, US aircraft bombed an Iraqi military facility in response to an attack the previous day on aircraft patrolling the southern "no-fly" zone. It was the fourth such US strike in a month.

Some military leaders favor delaying any [illegible]qi invasion until next year and perhaps not moving at all. They warn that at least 200,000 troops would be needed, and want covert intelligence operations to be the focus for now.

If Bush decides to strike without warning, there are alternatives to a conventional military buildup.

One strategy, proposed by retired Army Gen. Wayne A. Downing four years ago, calls for attacking Iraq with a combination of air strikes and special operations assaults in coordination with Iraqi fighters opposed to Saddam. From Kuwait, from carrier battle groups in the nearby waters or from Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, the forces could launch surprise attacks against the nation's weapons facilities or even target Saddam himself.

A sneak attack would create a huge uproar in the international community and expose Bush to criticism at home, particularly if US troops get bogged down.

Democratic Sen. Joseph Biden, chair of the Senate foreign relations committee, said he recently told Bush: "There's a reason why your father stopped and didn't go to Baghdad. What do you do when you take Saddam out? I don't know a single informed person who is suggesting you can take down Saddam and not be prepared to stay for two, four, five years to give the country a chance to be held together."

Under Bush's new "strike first" policy, which has evolved since the Sept. 11 attacks, the US military can take preemptive action if necessary against terrorist-harboring nations that have weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq may fit the bill:

Bush increasingly suspects that Saddam still aids terrorists, despite repeated warnings.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld recently dismissed claims by the Iraqi government that it has no nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. "They are lying," Rumsfeld said.

On Nov. 16, Bush contended for the first time that Osama bin Laden was seeking chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. He had been told that the al-Qaida may have access to those weapons through Pakistan.

The news is said to have crystallized Bush's thinking that terrorist groups and nuclear nations are a deadly combination. That led to the State of the Union address in which Bush called Iraq, Iran and North Korea an "axis of evil." Standing before Congress, he offered the first hint of his "strike first" doctrine and, perhaps, his plans for Iraq. **AP**

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2002 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

ENRON SCANDAL

Andersen guilty of obstruction of justice

HOUSTON—A jury convicted Arthur Andersen of obstruction of justice, dealing the battered accounting firm a potentially fatal blow and giving a first victory to prosecutors investigating the sudden collapse of energy-trader Enron.

Andersen, which has already lost more than a third of its public clients, told regulators after Saturday's verdict it would stop auditing public companies by Aug. 31. An Andersen lawyer promised a legal fight to keep the company alive.

Government lawyers hailed the verdict as a major step toward unraveling the Enron scandal.

In interviews after the verdict, jurors said they based their decision on evidence that an Andersen in-house lawyer sought to doctor a memo about the Enron case.

Four jurors downplayed the government's claims that Andersen's destruction of tons of paper and thousands of computer files was an attempt to thwart federal regulators investigating Enron.

"All this business about telling people to shred documents was largely superficial and largely circumstantial," jury foreman Oscar Criner said.

Prosecutor Andrew Weissman said the case boiled down to a simple principle: "When you expect the police, you don't destroy evidence."

The verdict, reached after 72 hours of deliberations over 10 days, is expected to bolster the federal investigation into what led to Enron's collapse late last year.

"It sends a strong message that we are going to get to the bottom of the Enron debacle and those people responsible will be prosecuted," said Leslie Caldwell, head of the criminal division of the Justice Department's San Francisco office and leader of its national Enron Task Force.

She said authorities were "still looking at all aspects of the case . . . We're not finished with Arthur Andersen."

In Washington, Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson said prosecutors would seek more indictments.

"This verdict confirms that Andersen knew full well that these documents were relevant to the inquiries into Enron's collapse and that Andersen partners and employees personally directed these efforts to destroy evidence," Thompson said.

Prosecutors argued that Andersen had intimate knowledge of the complex off-the-book partnerships that Enron used to boost its image of financial health and mask debt before its collapse into bankruptcy last December.

The energy trader is under a grand jury investigation, as well as scrutiny from Wall Street regulators and Congress.

Andersen now faces up to five years probation and a fine of up to $500,000. US District Judge Melinda Harmon will decide the sentence Oct. 11.

The company also could be fined up to twice any gains or damages the court determines were caused by the firm's action. A Securities and Exchange Commission rule bars any firm convicted of a felony from auditing publicly traded companies, and experts said that could put the crippled firm out of business.

Andersen told the SEC after the verdict that it would cease auditing publicly traded companies by Aug. 31, the commission said in a statement. Andersen has already lost almost 800 of its 2,300 public clients.

Ripple effects from the verdict could seal Andersen's demise, said Itzhak Sharav, an accounting professor at Columbia University's business school.

He said more companies were now likely to fire Andersen as their auditor, state accounting boards will likely move to revoke Andersen's license to do business, and the company could be hit with a flood of civil lawsuits.

"Andersen is history, no matter what," Sharav said.

Defense attorney Rusty Hardin said appeal would be filed after sentencing, declaring: "This company did not commit a crime." He said any states that tried to take away Andersen's business licenses would face litigation.

Andersen partner C. E. Andrews said it was too early for the company to talk about its future but said it would continue doing business for now.

"We don't have to rush out today and close our offices," he said. "Don't expect that. We will assess the outcome of this and make our decision. We're not going to stand here today on the courthouse steps and re-evaluate our business."

Jurors said they agreed unanimously that a single person was responsible for the wrongdoing at Andersen. That person was not identified in court, but jurors later said it was Nancy Temple, Andersen's in-house lawyer. She was one of the three witnesses who refused to testify for either side. *AP*

ARTHUR Andersen's lead attorney Rusty Hardin (right), Andersen senior managing partner C. E. Andrews (center) and defense team member Dick Favretto (left) speak to reporters outside the federal courthouse in Houston. AP

Firm had long rise, steep fall

CHICAGO—Arthur Andersen's recent troubles have stained a mostly proud heritage dating back 89 years.

The firm was founded in Chicago in 1913 as Andersen, DeLany & Co., by 28-year-old Arthur Andersen, who taught accounting at Northwestern University, and fellow accountant Clarence DeLany. Early clients included ITT, Colgate Palmolive and Parker Pen.

When DeLany left in 1918, it was renamed Arthur Andersen & Co. and run by Andersen as managing partner until his death in 1947.

Andersen was considered the gold standard of the accounting business for years.

Boosted by the rapid expansion of management consulting, it became the world's largest professional services firm in 1979.

But profit pressures ultimately led to its downfall. After separating its accounting and consulting practices in 1989, Andersen was involved in a series of accounting scandals involving clients Waste Management, Sunbeam and Enron.

In early 2002, after it acknowledged having destroyed Enron records, many clients, partners and overseas affiliates left as a result of the federal obstruction-of-justice charge that led to trial in Houston. *AP*

Swiss accounts of Milosevic's clique exposed

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia—Nine of Slobodan Milosevic's closest associates stashed away nearly $6 million in secret Swiss bank accounts during the former Yugoslav president's rule, Serbia's finance minister said Saturday.

Bozidar Djelic announced the results a day after Switzerland handed over bank documents related to an investigation against several associates of the former Yugoslav president. The documents did not list any accounts held by Milosevic or his family.

"Now, it is up to our investigators and courts to complete the remaining pieces of the puzzle," Djelic said. "The Swiss have done their part."

Although the Swiss refused to publicly identify the account holders, Djelic told reporters in Yugoslavia's capital, Belgrade, that the nine people belonged to Milosevic's inner circle.

Topping the Djelic's list was Mirko Marjanovic, the former prime minister in Serbia, Yugoslavia's dominant republic, and currently the caretaker chairperson of Milosevic's Socialist Party. His account allegedly held 1.25 million Swiss francs ($2.25 million).

Another account holder named was Tomislav Jankovic, a Milosevic-era official of the state health insurance company.

Djelic would not reveal the names of the other account holders because of the "delicate investigation," but said they were all well-known figures in Serbia.

Last week, at a Socialist Party press conference, Marjanovic had denounced reports of his alleged bank account in Switzerland as a "repugnant lie."

"Well, now we know who is lying," Djelic said.

The funds came from charging inflated prices and skimming the profits on drugs and other pharmaceuticals during the late 1990s, when the nation was under Western sanctions and medicines were difficult to obtain.

Djelic accused Jankovic and his associates of stealing from the sick.

"It is revolting," he said.

Ever since Milosevic's ouster in 2000, authorities have been trying to track all the former president's assets. During his 13 years of rule, Milosevic deformed the Yugoslav economy by awarding business monopolies to his cronies.

The Yugoslav authorities have estimated that about $1 billion was transferred abroad during Milosevic's rule, some of it through Cyprus.

The UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, has ordered a separate search for the Milosevic family assets as part of its prosecution of Milosevic for his role in the Balkan wars of the 1990s. *AP*

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AN ISRAELI soldier atop an armored carrier shoots in the air as he tries to prevent Palestinians from entering or leaving the West Bank town of Hebron on Saturday. AP

2 Israeli soldiers die in Gaza clash

GAZA—Palestinian militants killed two Israeli soldiers and wounded four in a clash in Gaza shortly after troops foiled a car bomb attack in fresh violence as US President George W. Bush worked on Middle East peace proposals.

The soldiers clashed with a group of gunmen near the Dugit Jewish settlement in the northern Gaza Strip on Saturday during a search for militants who planted a car bomb carrying mortar rounds and launchers and more than 150 kg of explosives.

"There are two dead soldiers and four wounded near Dugit," an Israeli Army spokesperson said on Sunday, adding the two soldiers killed were aged 20 and 22.

Israeli television and radio stations said at least one of the militants was killed in the clash.

An Army commander in Gaza said the militants had planned to lure soldiers to the booby-trapped car by firing mortars from the vehicle and then detonating explosives when troops came to search the area.

The military-wing of the militant Islamic Hamas group claimed it was behind the clash.

In the West Bank, Israeli construction workers prepared to break ground to erect a controversial fence dividing Israel from the northern West Bank in a measure Israel hopes will keep Palestinian suicide bombers out of the Jewish state.

Jewish settlers oppose the plan for a fence along Israel's frontier as it was before the 1967 Middle East war, when Israel captured the West Bank from Jordan. Palestinians fear their land could be confiscated and families separated by the fence.

A small contingent of Israeli troops staged a brief raid into Jenin before dawn on Saturday following intelligence information that Palestinian militants were planning to launch an attack from the city, the Army said.

Israeli radio stations quoted security officials as saying the troops had searched unsuccessfully for a suicide bomber planning to carry out an attack in Israel next week.

Israel has launched almost daily raids on Palestinian-ruled territory, keeping up pressure after a West Bank offensive unleashed in March after a spate of suicide bombings.

The US administration held more consultations with Middle East leaders on Friday as Bush prepared to unveil his vision for peace, based on a two-state solution, probably next week.

A tank and several armored personnel carriers left Jenin after a five-hour raid early on Saturday. But troops maintained a stranglehold around the northern West Bank city, the launchpad for many suicide bombings.

The radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) criticized the European Union for its reported plans to put three groups, including one linked to President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, on its list of terror organizations.

"We consider that European Union position as support to the state terrorism that the Israeli government is carrying out against our people," the PFLP said in a statement.

The decision to put the Fatah-linked al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, the PFLP and the Palestine Liberation Front on a list of banned terror groups would add pressure on Arafat to overhaul his government and rein in militant groups.

EU ministers meeting in Luxembourg on Monday will add the groups to its 15-member list, EU sources said on Friday.

Bush has vowed to lay out a plan for Palestinian statehood but US officials said he had not decided what he would say in what could be either a speech or a statement.

In Washington, US Secretary of State Colin Powell held separate talks on Friday with Israeli Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal and chief Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath. *Reuters*

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Pakistani investigators check if car bomb was set off by remote control

KARACHI, Pakistan—Investigators were examining whether a deadly explosion outside the US Consulate here was caused by a remote-controlled bomb hidden in a driver's education car taking three women to get their licenses, officials said Saturday.

Officials first said they thought a suicide bomber was responsible for the massive blast Friday that killed at least 10 people and injured 45 as it blew a gaping hole in the heavily guarded consulate's perimeter wall, shattered windows in buildings a block away and sent debris flying a kilometer. A previously unknown group claimed responsibility.

The widespread devastation made it difficult to piece together events leading up to the bombing, even the precise death toll and which vehicle contained the explosives. Officials first said 11 people were killed, then lowered the death toll Saturday to 10, citing confusion in sorting out body parts.

Later Saturday, the chief of security in Sindh province, Brig. Mukhtar Sheikh, said forensic experts had again concluded 11 people were killed after re-examining body parts.

Attention focused on the driver's school car that was carrying an instructor and three female students. Police said the bomb might have been stashed in the vehicle by someone who knew it would pass by the consulate and detonated the explosives by radio from nearby.

"We are keeping all options open ... this could be one possibility which can't be ruled out," Sheikh said.

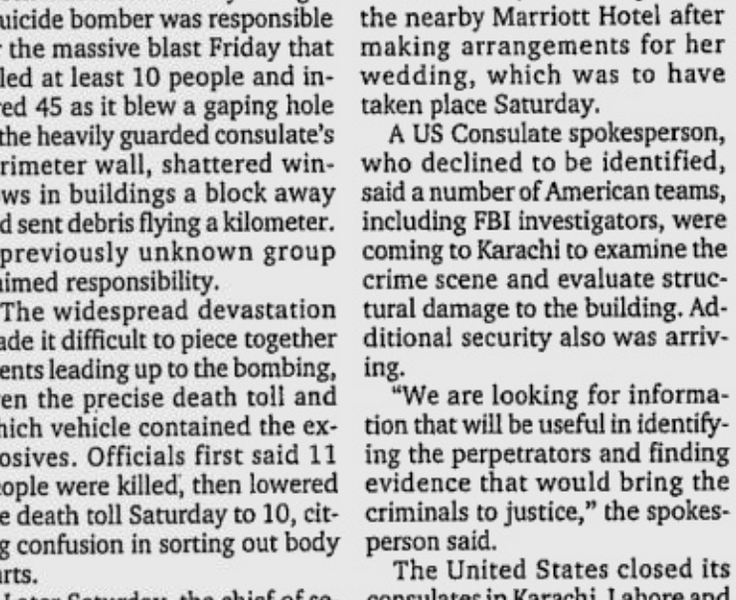
The dead also included a physician living in Kenya, Aliyah Warsi, and her uncle, who had just left the nearby Marriott Hotel after making arrangements for her wedding, which was to have taken place Saturday.

A US Consulate spokesperson, who declined to be identified, said a number of American teams, including FBI investigators, were coming to Karachi to examine the crime scene and evaluate structural damage to the building. Additional security also was arriving.

"We are looking for information that will be useful in identifying the perpetrators and finding evidence that would bring the criminals to justice," the spokesperson said.

The United States closed its consulates in Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar, as well as the American Center in Islamabad, with a decision to be made over the weekend on whether to reopen Monday.

The fourth attack against foreigners in Pakistan since January also prompted the US government to consider scaling back diplomatic staff in a country on the front line of the war against al-Qaida. *AP*



SNAKE STRIKES REUTERS

Snake handler Peter Morningstar is bitten by a seven-kilogram, three-meter-long carpet snake in Brisbane on May 30. Morningstar had just removed the snake from the roof of a house when the snake bit him on his brow. Morningstar has been bitten by non-venomous snakes before, with this one leaving only small puncture marks on his face.

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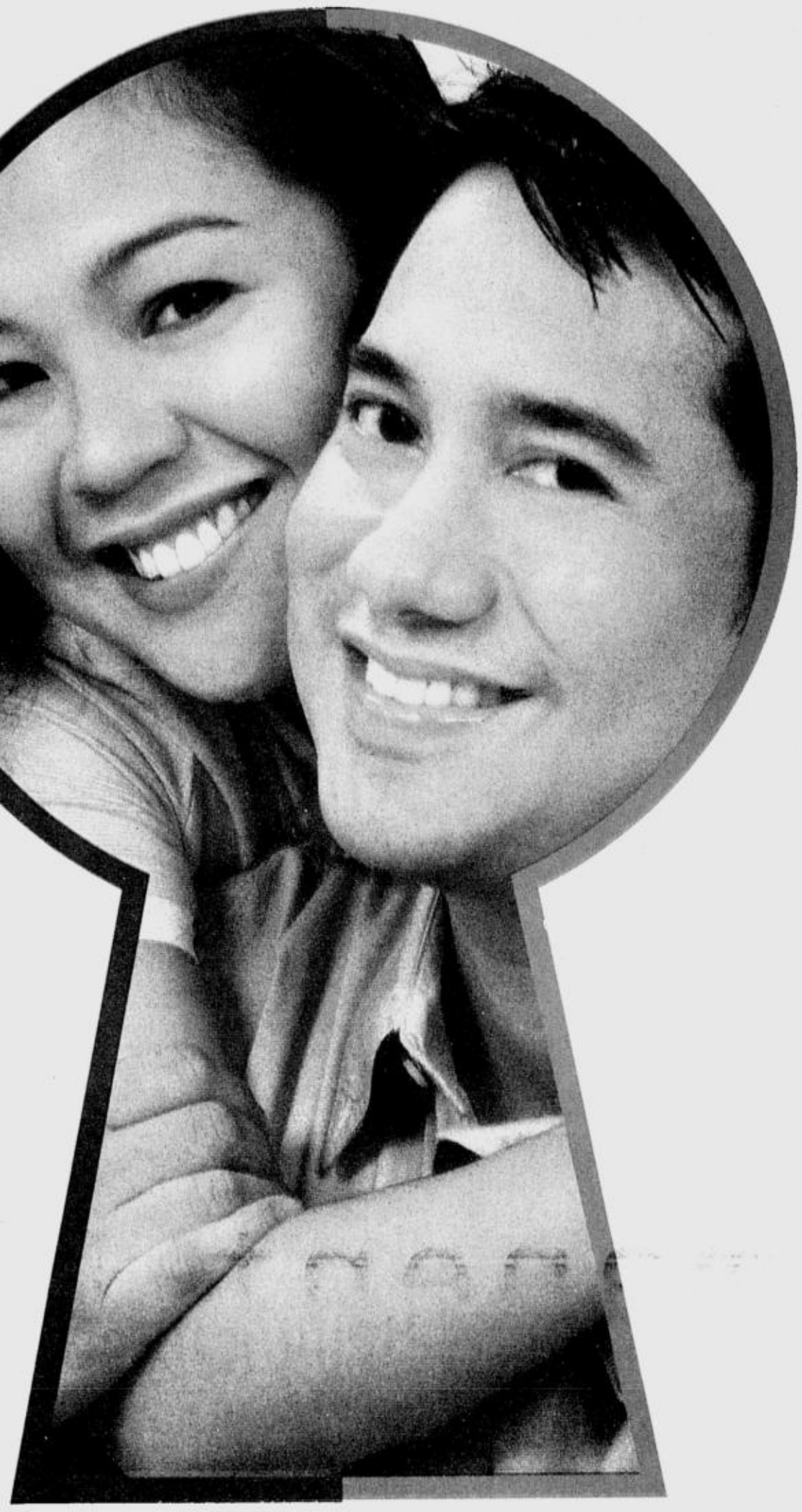

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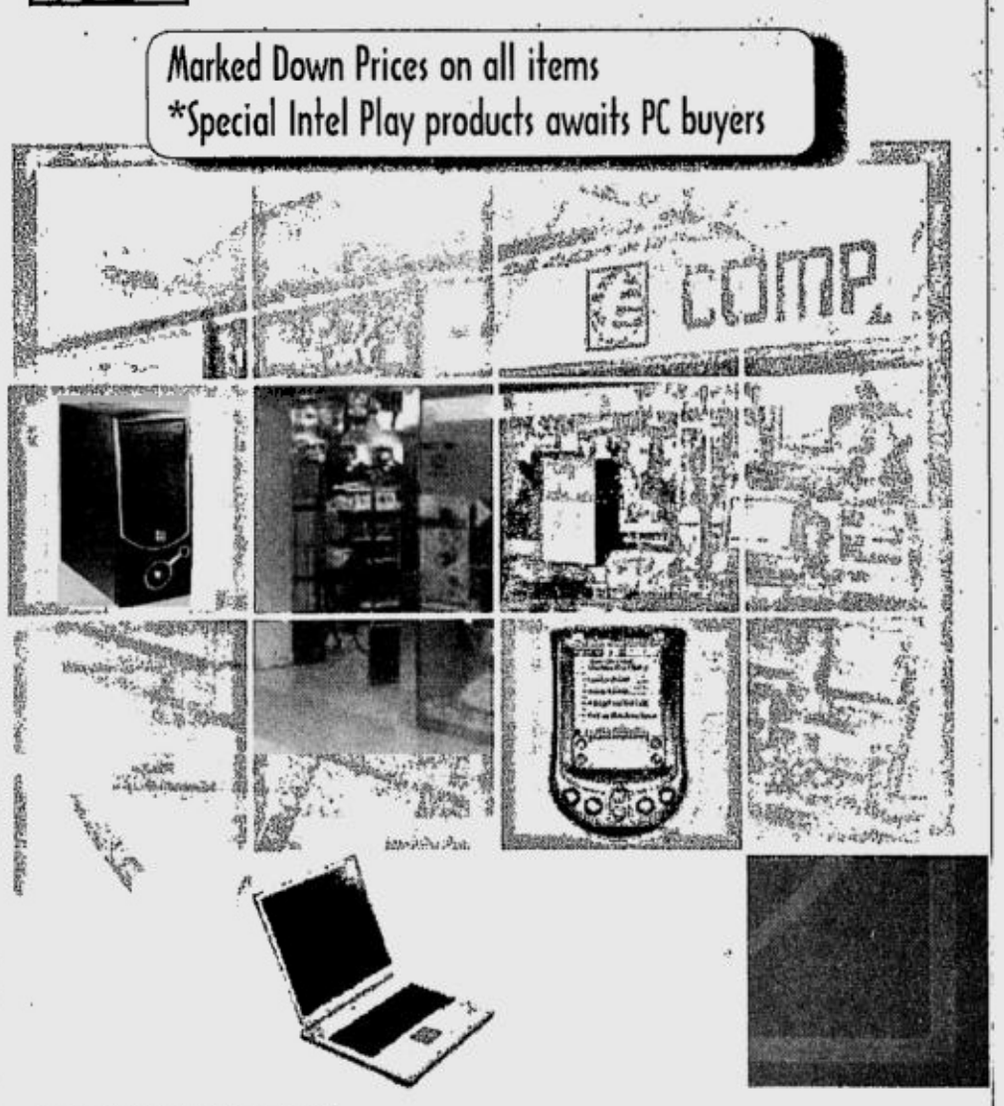

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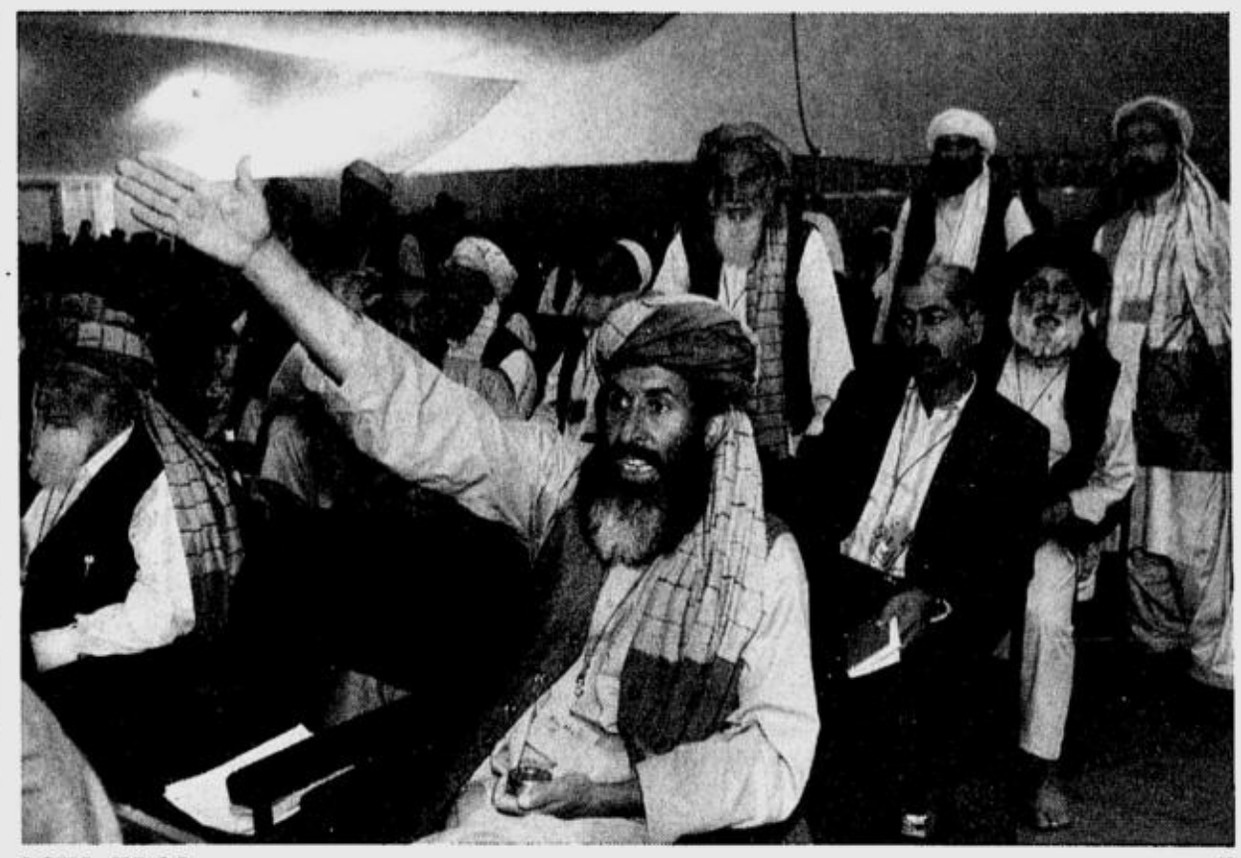

LOYA JIRGA AP

After years of Taliban rule, democracy make a comeback in Afghanistan's loya jirga. The traditional grand council of leaders has elected Hamid Karzai president, but remains deadlocked on still a big number of issues.

Experts say nuclear terror will kill few, but harm psyche

LOS ANGELES—A terrorist strike using radioactive materials likely would kill fewer people than the Sept. 11 attacks, but would produce a psychological effect that the country remains unprepared for, nuclear medical experts said.

Though casualties might be kept relatively low, the country's health care system remains unprepared to handle mass radioactive contamination, with some hospitals relying on their morgues as emergency treatment areas, doctors said Saturday at the Society of Nuclear Medicine's annual meeting.

The most likely scenarios of a terrorist strike using radiation include: exploding a conventional bomb to scatter radioactive debris; attacking a nuclear reactor or supply of nuclear material, or poisoning the water supply, experts said.

Any case would prove a very effective terrorist weapon by spreading fear across the entire population.

"In a 'dirty bomb' scenario, the psycho-social effect would be vastly greater than the bomb itself," said Jonathan Links, professor of environmental health sciences at Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health.

"It's difficult to kill someone with radiation," said Henry Royal, a professor of radiology at the Washington University School of Medicine and an expert on managing radiation.

The worst nuclear accident in history, which occurred in 1986 at Ukraine's Chernobyl plant, directly killed only 31 people, although many more died from exposure to radiation later.

"It is inconceivable that a terrorist could get their hands on that amount of radioactive material," Royal said.

In many ways, a radioactive terrorist strike would be easier to handle than a biological or chemical attack, experts said, because those who are affected would not sicken others. Radioactive contamination can be washed off and most of it remains on the clothes, Royal said.

Authorities recently detained US citizen Jose Padilla, a Muslim convert from Chicago, on suspicion of being part of a plot to detonate a radiological weapon in the United States. He has not been charged but he is in military custody. ***AP***

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Beijing Internet café fire kills 24

BEIJING—A fire early Sunday morning in a packed Internet cafe in Beijing's university district killed 24 people in what official media described as the Chinese capital's deadliest blaze in over half a century.

The fire broke out at about 2:45 a.m. at the Lanjisu Cyber Café in the Haidian district in Beijing's northwest, said the Xinhua News Agency and an official reached by telephone at the Beijing fire department headquarters.

Twenty of the victims died on the scene and four others died after being rushed to hospital, Xinhua said. Another 13 people injured in the blaze were being treated in hospital, Xinhua said.

Most were students, it said.

Haidian is home to prestigious Beijing and Tsinghua universities and has a large student population.

The fire's cause was under investigation, according to Xinhua and the fire official, who wouldn't give his name.

Xinhua said the front door to the cafe was locked at the time of the fire and there were no other exits. Windows were covered in iron burglar bars, further preventing escape.

A neighbor said he was awakened by people screaming and saw smoke pouring from windows of the cafe, located on the second floor of a two story cement building.

"There were people shouting, 'Help me, help me," said the man, who gave just his surname, Liu.

Neighbors later pried the bars off one window and dragged out several victims, who appeared to be already dead, Liu said.

Firefighters took just five minutes to extinguish the fire, which seemed to be concentrated near the front of the cafe, he said. The fire official and Xinhua said the blaze was put out by 3:30 a.m.

The fire was the deadliest in Beijing since the founding of the communist People's Republic in 1949, Xinhua said. ***AP***

Castro: Socialism untouchable

HAVANA—Fidel Castro became the first person on Saturday to sign a petition ratifying the island's four-decade-old socialist system as "untouchable," rejecting demands for deep democratic reforms by Cuban activists here and US President George W. Bush.

A live television broadcast showed Castro and other top members of the Cuban leadership signing the petition that seeks a constitutional change. They signed just minutes before more than 120,000 petition stations across the island opened Saturday morning for ordinary Cubans to sign on the measure.

Answering questions from reporters afterward, Castro estimated at least 7 million of Cuba's 11 million citizens would back the constitutional amendment that says the nation's economic, political and social system cannot be changed. That's about the same number of people of voting age—16 and older—who may legally sign.

"This is not a state activity," Castro said. He insisted the campaign was being carried out by the nation's mass organizations.

Shortly before signing the petition at a local communist neighborhood watch office, Castro exhorted Cubans to pay tribute to independence hero Antonio Maceo and revolutionary hero Ernesto "Che" Guevara during a rally remembering the men one day after the anniversary of their births—June 14.

"I'm here to sign because I agree with the revolution," said Jesus Manuel Garcia, one of several dozen people who showed up at one petition station in Old Havana.

"I signed because it is the duty of all Cubans," said Marta Garcia, who signed at the same station. "It's important for the revolution." ***AP***

Thousands tell Chavez: Resign

CARACAS, Venezuela—Tens of thousands of Venezuelans opposed to President Hugo Chavez marched Saturday to demand his resignation and punishment for those responsible for 17 deaths during a coup in April.

"Chavez leave now!" read a huge banner carried by protesters, many of whom wore bandanas reading "Forbidden to Forget." More than 100,000 people joined the fourth march against Chavez since the failed coup.

"The country is not going well with this president," said Magaly Villasmil, 53, a housewife. "I cannot stay in my house while he destroys it. I'm going to keep marching until I die."

More than 1,200 police officers were deployed, but no violence was reported.

Chavez's Fifth Republic Movement party staged a counter-march in the central city of Maracay, the nerve center for Venezuela's military.

The government said the Caracas march underscored Venezuela's vibrant, if volatile, democracy. But the protest stoked fears of another military coup in this sharply divided nation—and retaliation by civilian militias defending Chavez's leftist administration. ***AP***

Hong Kong's freedoms face test

HONG KONG—As Hong Kong opens the trial Monday in its first criminal case against followers of the Falun Gong movement, human rights watchdogs are predicting another ominous test of its freedoms and autonomy.

Falun Gong is banned on the Chinese mainland as an "evil cult."

But Hong Kong, although a part of China since 1997, has kept the freedoms that allow Falun Gong to practice its meditation exercises and to protest against the Chinese government's suppression of the movement.

The different rules have created an uncomfortable situation for Hong Kong and its leader, Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa, but until now Hong Kong has responded only with words, calling Falun Gong a "cult" and promising to closely watch the group.

That changes when 16 Falun Gong followers—12 Hong Kong Chinese and four Swiss—go on trial Monday for public obstruction during a protest outside the Chinese government's liaison office here. Some also face stiffer charges—obstructing and assaulting the police. ***AP***

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Missionaries not about to leave RP

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The death of Martin Burnham and the harrowing experience he and his wife Gracia went through have far from discouraged foreign missionaries coming to the Philippines.

The couple "will continue to serve as inspirations to missionaries throughout the world" and "will serve as an influence and challenge to others who serve the Lord by their testimony and courage."

That was how Linda Moore, an American Baptist missionary based in Bacolod City, reacted last week to the death of the man who had once saved her husband's life.

Martin Burnham did not know the Moores until 1995 when he flew Moore's husband Doyle to safety in his small plane after Doyle met an accident in General Santos City in 1995.

Throughout the Burhams' ordeal in Abu Sayyaf captivity, the Moores had prayed for their safe release along with Filipina nurse Edilbora Yap.

The Moores, who have lived in here for 25 years, are members of the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

On April 2, 1995, Doyle was riding in a jeepney in General Santos when an orange Volkswagen car suddenly appeared, forcing the jeepney driver to swerve to the left, right into the path of an approaching six-wheel truck.

Doyle was badly injured and needed to be airlifted to Bacolod for treatment, but the Moores could not afford to have a private nurse to accompany Doyle on the Philippine Airlines flight, which was a requirement of the airline. When Martin, a missionary pilot, heard about it, he offered to fly Doyle in his plane.

When the news broke out on Friday that Martin and Edilbora were killed in Zamboanga del Norte, Moore said she and her husband were on a retreat in Hinobaan town, 199.4 kilometers south of here, and did not learn about it until Saturday night.

She said that when she woke up Saturday morning, she prayed for the captives as she had always done. But she did not know why instead of asking the Lord to get them out safely, she had asked that they be taken home.

In the Christian context, "take them home" is often meant to bring them home to the Lord. "It just spilled out and I immediately rephrased my prayer and asked for their safe release," she said.

Linda said that maybe, it was the Lord's way of letting her know what happened, because it was only in the evening of Saturday that she got a text message from missionary Darlene Carey about what happened to the Burnhams.

"We were driving home to Bacolod and we wept when we heard of the news," she said.

"While we have all prayed that the captives be freed without any bruises, the Lord must have his purpose for it to have happened the way it did," she added. "It was heartbreaking to hear of Martin's death because he was such a nice man, but we trust the Lord in whatever he does."

Moore said she believed God made Gracia live for the sake of the four Burnham children.

"The Burnhams' experience has touched lives around the world, and who knows even their captors," she said.

Vatican key to preventing mass resignation of priests

LUCENA CITY—When Bishop Emilio Marquez, head of the Diocese of Gumaca, assumed the post of "Bishop Coadjutor" from Bishop Ruben Profugo of the Diocese of Lucena on May 4, not a few Catholics here were caught by surprise by the sudden turn of events in the local Catholic Church.

Now it can be told.

Unknown to the Catholic community, were it not for the immediate and decisive action of the Vatican representative in the country, at least 29 priests in the Diocese of Lucena would have resigned in protest of the past administration of the diocese.

In a letter addressed to Rev. Antonio Franco, DD, the apostolic nuncio, dated April 8, a copy of which was furnished the INQUIRER by a priest who requested not to be identified, two officials of the Diocese of Lucena told the Vatican representative that their bishop was "not ready emotionally, physically and psychologically to resume his ministry."

The cause of the tension: Bishop Profugo, whom they did not directly identify in the letter. But based on succeeding interviews with several priests, the Church official was the subject of the complaint in the letter.

Fathers Emmanuel Ma. Villareal, chancellor, and Jude Paquito Reno, vice chancellor, reported to Franco, "that the current state of affairs in the diocese is taking its toll on their life and ministry."

"There is a growing sense of indifference and apathy within our ranks, affecting our pastoral effectiveness and morale in the process," the letter said.

It quoted a priest, who reportedly said the "bishop who is supposed to be the source of and center of unity has ironically become a cause of deep division among his priests."

"With this, all expressed their intention and willingness to resign en masse from their different diocesan offices if only to express their dissatisfaction with the present situation," added the letter, which also contains the names of the 29 priests and their places of assignment.

But due to the immediate intercession of Franco, the priests reconsidered their position.

"Nonetheless, we do not discount the possibility—when worst comes to worst—to push through," said the letter.

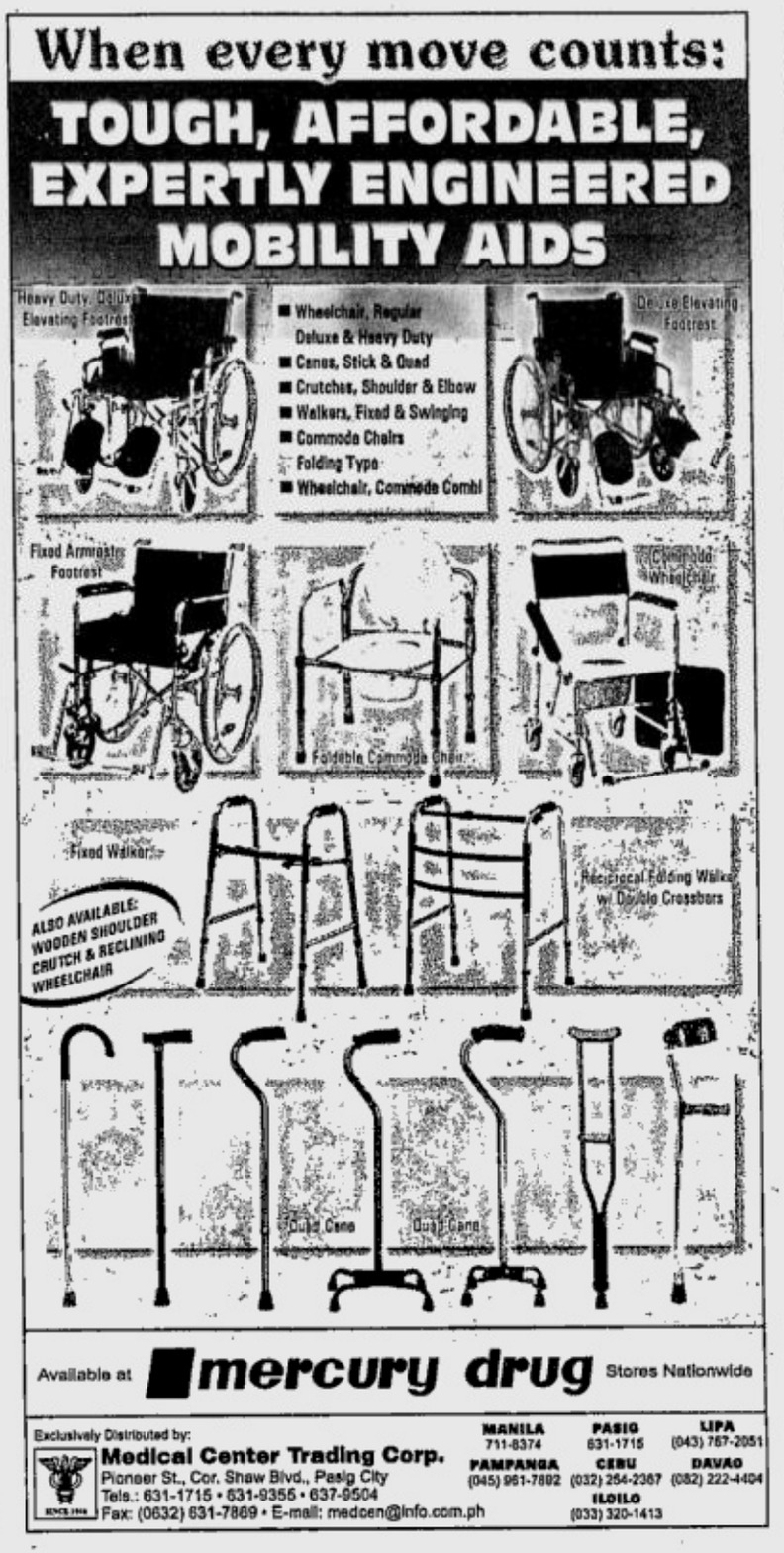
The letter further warned that of the 26 priests present during the meeting, "some expressed the view that if the gravity of the situation would warrant, they would not hesitate to initiate legal cases against the bishop."

When the INQUIRER sought some of the priests for clarification, no one was willing to talk, except one who requested anonymity.

He said the issue centered on alleged financial mismanagement that involved millions of pesos.

"The assets of the diocese have been grossly mismanaged. There were lots of debts. All the business exposures

VATICAN/ p.17



Gloria assistant for N. Luzon defends Aurora transfer to CL

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Presidential Assistant for North Luzon Renato Diaz defended President Macapagal-Arroyo's order transferring Aurora to Central Luzon, claiming it was meant to "speed up the development of the province."

Diaz defended the President's decision after opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara, Aurora Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo and Ricky Avanceña, grandson of the late President Manuel Quezon, demanded the scrapping of Executive Order 103 and the reunification of Aurora with Southern Tagalog.

Angara called the move "arbitrary" and done out of "political reasons." Ms Macapagal's home region is Central Luzon.

Diaz said the transfer was "justified." The bases for these, according to him, were the accessibility of Aurora from Nueva Ecija, the historical ties of Aurora to Pampanga and Nueva Ecija, and the inclusion of the province in Central Luzon's medium-term development plan five years ago.

Diaz, a former congressman of Nueva Ecija, said Aurora was more accessible through the Central Luzon province of Nueva Ecija.

Aurora, he noted, has no major road access to its neighboring provinces in Southern Tagalog. He said Aurora residents travel through Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Metro Manila, Batangas and Laguna to get to San Pablo City and Lucena City, the regional centers of Southern Tagalog.

He explained that this "inconvenience" has led to the "failure of the delivery of services" to the people of Aurora. This lack of access, he pointed out, has hindered the growth and development of the province.

Castillo attributed the poverty of Aurora not to geography but to the lack of will by the national government to support the province's growth.

Diaz said EO 103, issued on May 17, "merely formalized an ongoing reality," pointing out that police and military units in Aurora are under the jurisdiction of regional commands in Central Luzon.

To Castillo's comment that the order "tampered with history," Diaz said Baler, the capital of Aurora, used to be part of Nueva Ecija until 1902.

Ivan Henares, a Pampanga historian, further claimed that Baler used to belong to the "Kapampanga Region," which stretched from Manila Bay up to Cagayan. He said the territory was subdivided, with Pampanga becoming a mere province of the Spanish empire in 1571.

Diaz said economic planners had long recognized the logic of adjoining Aurora to Central Luzon. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Negros legislator expresses disgust over low reduction in PPA charges

BACOLOD CITY—"It's disappointing and demoralizing."

This was how Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Carlos Lacson described the P 0.1196, or the almost 12 centavos reduction in the Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA) of the Central Negros Electric Cooperative (Ceneco) in the June bills of electricity consumers.

Lacson said he would ask the National Power Corp. to explain the computation of the PPA reduction because they had expected that the PPA charges would be reduced by 85 centavos.

Based on the electric bills received by Ceneco consumers for June, however, the PPA was still more than half of the basic power rate charged by the cooperative.

The consumers still paid P5.31 per-kilowatthour (kWh) — P2.28 for the PPA and P3.03 for the basic power rate, according to Lacson.

The Ceneco serves the cities of Bacolod, Silay, Bago and Talisay and the towns of Murcia and Don Salvador Benedicto towns, with 104,848 consumers.

Acting Ceneco manager Benedicto Peralta explained that the 11-centavo reduction was computed based on the consumers' power consumption from May 8 to 25, which was not an entire month's bill.

The reduction of the June power consumption was expected to be bigger because it would be computed from May 25 to June 26, Peralta said.

Faced with mounting public clamor against excessive power rates, President Macapagal-Arroyo last month ordered the Napocor to temporarily reduce the PPA by P1.25 (kWh).

The PPA is an automatic cost recovery mechanism set up by the Napocor and distribution utilities to cover fluctuations in fuel prices, power costs, and foreign exchange rate.

The portion of the Napocor's PPA charge, which was P1.25 per kWh, represents the higher cost of electricity produced by independent power producers (IPPs) that sell their output to the Napocor under multi-year contracts.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Dureza calls for patience over reb's war talk

COTABATO CITY—"The man is in deep grief. Let's wait for him to cool down."

This was how Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza reacted after initial efforts to convince Abdulrahman Basco Tutin of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) to retract his declaration of war on the government have failed.

Tutin, chair of the MNLF's Western Cotabato State Revolutionary Command, said he was abandoning the 1996 peace agreement after his son and eight others were killed in clashes with the military in Datu Piang, Maguindanao on Tuesday.

"We have to understand (the outburst of) Commander Basco, who lost comrades and a loved one," Dureza said.

Dureza said he was hoping that Tutin would overcome his anger.

Earlier, at least two more ranking MNLF leaders said it appeared that Tutin was steadfast in his decision to wage war against the government.

Alano Bansawan, chair of the MNLF Central Cotabato State Revolutionary Committee, admitted he would be forced to side with Tutin if the efforts to convince him to retract his declaration failed.

Another MNLF leader had even directed his men to prepare for any eventuality.

In yet another effort to make Tutin backtrack from his declaration of war, Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema said he sent fresh feelers to the grieving leader for a meeting.

But Sema suggested that the government-MNLF ceasefire committee, of which Indonesia is a member representing the Organization of the Islamic Conference, should conduct an impartial investigation of the Datu Piang clash.

"We must get to the bottom of it," Sema said.

Dureza said the government would exert all efforts to convince Tutin to reconsider his plan.

In General Santos City, MNLF leaders said they would not join Tutin's declaration of war.

But Uttoh Salem Cutan said they understand Tutin's burst of emotion.

"We can't blame Commander Basco for taking up arms against the government. His son was killed in an encounter with the military. But we should not allow ourselves to be carried away by our emotion," Cutan, member of the MNLF Council of 15, said.

Cutan, formerly a director of the Southern Philippines Council For Peace and Development, said the MNLF as an organization was not poised to abandon the 1996 peace pact it signed with the government just because of that "isolated" incident in Datu Piang.

He disclosed that the majority of the members of the MNLF Council of 15 are in Manila talking with Malacañang officials to find ways to patch up the brewing trouble in Maguindanao.

"We considered what happened in Datu Piang as an isolated case. We could not avoid such incident as there are some elements who wanted to perpetuate trouble in Mindanao," Cutan said. ***Charlie C. Señase and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

THRILL RIDE VILLAMOR VISAYA

A lonely stretch of highway in Aglipay, Quirino, beckons to bikers, like these two youngsters appearing to enjoy riding their bicycle in the middle of the not-so-busy highway.

Protecting RP forests a 'very lonely job,' complains DENR exec

MATI, Davao Oriental—"Some of us are (being) maimed while some are dying while protecting what remains of our fast dwindling forests. Forest protection is such a very lonely job," Ernesto Lizada, assistant regional executive director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Southern Mindanao lamented.

Lizada said that despite the sacrifices, people protecting the environment rarely receive appreciation for performing their jobs.

"(We) are suffering a lot in protecting our forest but then nobody seems to sympathize. Everybody is condemning rampant illegal logging but nobody is willing to give their share in sympathy to the effort," he said.

Lizada said that forest protection has become a complicated job because of the involvement of government officials in illegal logging.

"You will be stepping on the toes of so many people especially the vested interest groups, those who have the money, the power and the influence," he told the Inquirer after the recent meeting of the provincial environment council here.

Meddling by politicians in the implementation of forest laws has also brought problems to the government's effort to protect the ecology according to Lizada.

"You know politicians play politics. When illegal logging operators are caught, they go to the provincial governor and then the governor will write you a letter saying 'Please release these, please help them, they have promised not to do it again," he said.

Lizada said one of the worst threats to the drive is the "I don't care" attitude among some officials.

"Some local government officials just really don't care about the illegal massive cutting of trees in their areas of responsibility even if they know they have the power to stop the activities," he said.

But the most serious threat, he said, is the connivance between a number of DENR officials and illegal loggers in the region.

In Davao Oriental alone, Lizada said they placed at least three DENR officials under surveillance because of suspicion of involvement in illegal logging activities.

In Cateel town, a local environmental group filed complaints against the town's mayor and seven other officials for alleged involvement in illegal logging.

Edgardo Ricky Arisola, president of the environmental watchdog group Cateel Bantay Kalikasan, told the Inquirer that they have already gathered evidence against the local officials. ***Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Lina says 'jueteng' bosses backing bets for local posts

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Jueteng lords have geared up for the 2004 elections, beginning to finance candidates supportive of the illegal numbers game, Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. has said here.

Lina referred to this phenomenon as "gambling politics," which he said is gripping the country now.

"Yes, that's why we have to galvanize the citizenry against this menace because if narco-politics is still a coming menace, 'gambling politics' is in our country at the moment," he told reporters here.

Lina was with the party of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who addressed the first convention of more than 1,600 field personnel of the Department of Agrarian Reform at the Expo Pilipino here.

He sounded off the alarm, saying that "if they (gambling lords) can control government, then it's a disaster."

Lina clarified, though, that jueteng lords have targeted only local candidates.

Director General Leandro Mendoza, outgoing Philippine National Police chief, echoed Lina's statements, saying the influence of jueteng on politics is confined at the local level.

Mendoza said gambling lords had supported local candidates in previous elections. "They chose their candidates," he said.

But the PNP, according to him, had been tough on the anti-illegal gambling drive.

Lina said the number of areas in Luzon, where jueteng operations exist, has decreased by 30 percent. The daily collections from jueteng have also gone down to P24 million.

During the term of former President Joseph Estrada, daily collections from jueteng reached between P30 million and P35 million, Lina said.

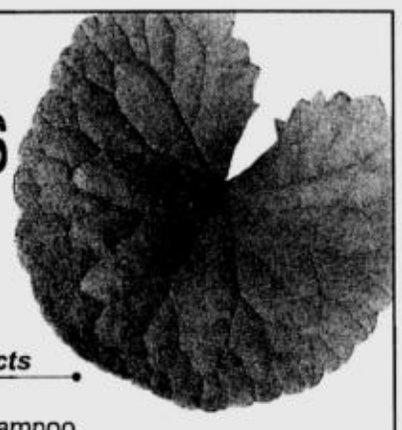
He declared Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Ilocos Sur and Aurora as "jueteng-free."

He said successive raids are being done in Batangas and Pangasinan and in Bicol and Central Luzon.

He said jueteng is "very rampant" and "still high" in Nueva Ecija, Pampanga and Bulacan.

"It's an uphill battle," he said of the campaign. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

CITEM LAUNCHES NOVEL PRODUCT CONCEPTS FROM MEDICINAL PLANTS



Encouraged by the socio-economic prospects of developing the country's own line of phyto-personal care and phyto-pharmaceutical products from Philippine medicinal plants, the Department of Trade and Industry, through its export promotions agency, the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM), tapped the services of Dr. Dietmar Rummel, a German consultant. He has resided in the Philippines for nearly a decade and is armed with some 40 years of experience as a natural medicine doctor and a specialist in phytotherapy.

CITEM and Dr. Rummel will unveil the novel formulations consisting of 11 phyto-personal care and 12 phyto-pharmaceutical products in the Special Setting of the BIO-Search 2002, an exhibition of Organic, Herbal and Natural Health Products and Services on 20 to 23 June at the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC) along Roxas Boulevard. He will also conduct orientations on the CITEM Herbal Product Licensing Program daily in Conference Room A, PTTC, from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. during BIO-Search.

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- No animal-derived ingredients. Dr. Rummel used carrageenan capsules made from seaweed because gelatin extracted from animal bones, hooves and tissues may be a source of illnesses, such as Mad Cow Disease.

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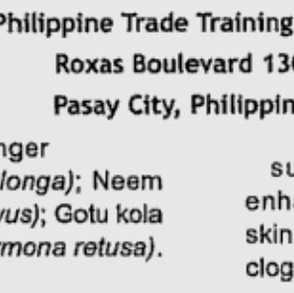

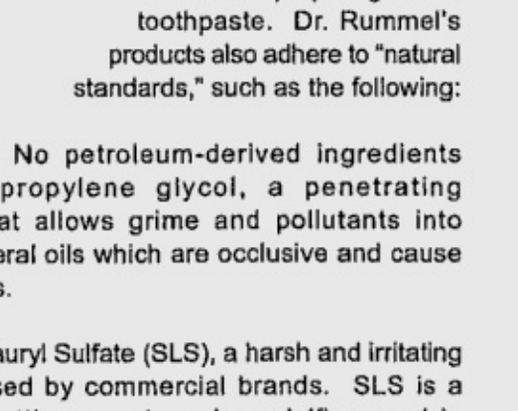

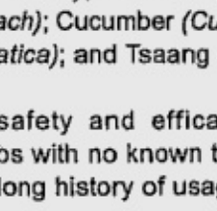

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Cop first gun ban violator

TABACO CITY—A policeman here was the first violator of the 60-day gun ban of the Commission on Elections in connection with the synchronized Sangguniang Barangay Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on July 15.

A police report identified the suspect as PO3 Jose Bongalonta, an investigator of this city's police office.

Bongalonta seemed unaware of the gun ban, which prohibits members of any law enforcement agency, including policemen from carrying firearms without an exemption permit issued by the Comelec.

Chief Insp. Nilo Berdin, city police chief, said he has sent the police report and the schedule of police personnel on duty to the National Bureau of Investigation, which handled Bongalota's case. ***Job B. Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Capiz folk, execs turn to GMA for end to perennial flooding

By Gerry T. Pagharion
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—The people of Capiz and their leaders are hoping that President Macapagal-Arroyo will finally address the perennial flooding in their province.

During the President's visit in Iloilo on Monday, Capiz officials planned to ask Ms Macapagal how her administration would address the problem on flooding.

They would also present to the President a draft of an executive order creating the Panay River Basin Development Council to strengthen the Task Force Tinagong Dagat by providing it with the necessary powers and resources to implement its goals and objectives.

Capiz district engineer Orlando Panaguit and Julius Abela of the Department of Public Works and Highways were called to Malacañang last Tuesday to finalize the draft.

Proposals

Among the salient proposals outlined in the draft that would be presented by Gov. Vicente Bermejo to the President were:

- Creation of a Panay River Basin Development Council that will seek solutions to eliminate the three main causes of flooding. These are the erosion of soil in denuded mountains comprising the watershed of the Panay River, inappropriate farming systems and illegal construction of fishponds dikes at the Tinagong Dagat Bay.
- Forming of a legal panel that will serve as the council's legal arm. The panel will be responsible for all problems or issues involving the functions or operations of the council and its member in accordance with the scope of their authorities granted by the Office of the Solicitor General.
- An annual allocation of P10 million for the council's operation, which will be taken from budget of the Office of the President.
- The council will be given police powers and authority to effectively enforce its policies and guidelines.
- All member-agencies shall prepare their respective programs on the development and rehabilitation of the Tinagong Dagat watershed area and river basin and submit a report to the Office of the President through the President's Assistant for the Visayas within six months.

Objectives

Among the objectives of the council was to enhance the free flow of water along the Panay River system toward the Tinagong Dagat Bay by demolishing the dikes of illegally constructed fishponds and dredging at least 30 kilometers of heavily silted main river systems.

A task force was created following the April 30, 1993 visit of then President Fidel Ramos to Capiz primarily to dismantle illegally constructed fishpond dikes in the Tinagong Dagat Bay in Pontevedra town.

These dikes were believed to have impeded the free flow of water, causing massive flooding in the province.

But the Task Force Dinagat failed to carry out its mandate due to lack of powers and resources. Of the 74 fishponds with illegal dikes identified by the task force, only 34 were demolished.

There were reports that at least eight fishponds with illegal dikes had been reconstructed right under the noses of authorities.

Perennial

Still, floods continued to hit Capiz in 1993, 1994 and 2000, causing serious damages to lives and property.

The province has a total agricultural area of 262,317 hectares. Of the number, 55,2[illegible] hectares have already been severely eroded.

Bodies of water in almost all of the towns of Capiz and the capital Roxas City are primarily drained by the Panay River, which emanates from the Nacuron Mountain range straddling Capiz and Aklan towns.

Continuous siltation in this range has wreaked havoc on fishponds, rice production and the living conditions of the people.

Vatican key . . .

(From page 15)

were losing. Where is the money?" the priest asked.

The diocese operates several schools, a hospital, a radio station, a huge auditorium and a printing press, among many other businesses.

The INQUIRER asked the priest whether the cause of agitation still needs to be resolved now that Marquez has taken over.

"Definitely, there are still lots of financial questions that beg for an answer," he said, declining to further elaborate.

Instead, he pointed to one Msgr. Oscar Leaño, vicar general, as the right person to talk to.

"He is the appointed spokesperson of the group should this issue reach the media," the priest said.

Leaño tried to persuade the INQUIRER not to write any report based on the contents of the letter. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 34° Lo 25°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 25° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 35° Lo 23°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 27°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/06/17/02

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Sacks of rice in NFA warehouse turn to sawdust

TACLOBAN CITY–Officials of the Bureau of Customs are in trouble after the National Food Authority (NFA) found out that the 1,800 sacks stored in its warehouse actually contained sawdust and not smuggled rice.

Ruben Manatad, NFA supervisor of the warehouse in Alang-alang town, Leyte complained to NFA provincial chief Oscar Tubalinal that the 1,800 sacks turned over by customs did not contain rice.

"What the customs stored at our warehouse was actually sawdust, not rice," said Manatad in his report to Tubalinal dated June 5.

Manatad found out about it on June 3 when he secretly opened one of the bags turned over by the customs bureau to the NFA warehouse for safekeeping. To his surprise, the sack contained sawdust.

"It just so happened that I opened the bags," he told the INQUIRER.

Corazon Buban, chief of the assessment division in customs-Eastern Visayas, refused to comment on the matter, saying her office was still conducting an inventory of all the smuggled rice placed under the custody of the NFA warehouse in Alang-alang.

NFA records showed that the 1,800 sacks of sawdust were delivered to the NFA warehouse in Alang-alang, about 4 a.m. of May 31 for safety by Avelino Albuerca, deputy collector based in the customs district office in Tacloban City, Leyte.

These were supposedly part of the 18,000 sacks of rice, which the police seized in Hilongos town, Leyte on April 25.

Senior Supt. Teodorido Lapuz, police director for Leyte, said the smuggled rice came from Cebu City and was to be delivered to different towns in Leyte. He said the Hilongos police immediately turned over the smuggled rice to the customs officials.

Before the 1,800 sacks were delivered to the NFA warehouse in Alang-alang, Manatad said Albuerca placed these in a private warehouse in Hindang town, Leyte from April 25 to May 31.

On May 28, Manatad said Eufemio Aguilar, customs collector for Eastern Visayas, asked the NFA regional office if they could store the smuggled rice turned over by the Hilongos police to the NFA warehouse in Alang-alang.

The 1,800 sacks were delivered to the Alang-alang warehouse at about 4 a.m. of May 31.

Lino Eusore, assistant warehouse supervisor, was the only person around to receive the delivery from Albuerca because Manatad was on leave at that time.

Manatad said Eusore did not inspect the contents of the bags because there is a policy between the NFA and the Customs that the (NFA) "should not inspect the kind of rice that was placed under (its) custody."

When he reported for work on June 3, Manatad said he secretly opened one of the sacks only to discover that it contained sawdust. ***Cynthia A. Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Vizcaya townsfolk ask bishop to force embattled priest to take 1-year leave

By Ben Moses Ebreo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGABAG, Nueva Vizcaya—Residents asked Bishop Ramon Villena of the Diocese of Bayombong and Quirino on Wednesday to allow embattled Msgr. Vicente Emilio Tugadi to take a leave for a year to appease the Catholic faithful seeking the priest's ouster.

The call was made after leaders of the Alliance of Christian Crusaders against Oppression, Repression of Rights and Dishonesty in the Church (Accorrd) met with Villena at the house of former Vice Mayor Glen Afan, who arranged for a dialogue.

Afan coordinated the dialogue after Accorrd members expressed dissatisfaction over the bishop's decision to retain Tugadi as parish priest of Bagabag.

In a statement, Accorrd members called Villena's decision as "flimsy and weak." "The bishop is only covering up the inhuman acts of Tugadi," they said.

Earlier, Accorrd members in a petition asked Villena to remove Tugadi as parish priest of the St. Jerome Church here because of his alleged lack of fitness to manage a parish, loss of confidence, arrogance, dictatorial style of management, ostentatious lifestyle and alleged discriminatory treatment of poor families in the parish.

In his decision, Villena said "he did not see any serious violation of the laws of the Church or any law of the country by Monsignor Tugadi."

"To my mind, he (Tugadi) satisfactorily answered the accusations hurled at him," the bishop said.

Villena also apologized to parishioners over the controversy. "I would like to apologize for the hurt we have caused you. Forgive our shortcomings and give us the chance to renew ourselves," he said.

During the three-hour dialogue, Accorrd leader Tom Gumiran asked Villena to allow Tugadi to take a leave for a year.

"The period is enough for us to heal the wounds and reconcile. But if negotiations will fail, we will continue our protest actions," Gumiran said.

Accorrd members picketed the parish on Thursday. Reports said irate residents stoned the convent on Tuesday and Wednesday.

PHOTO FROM DTI

FEEL OF THE MARKET
Trade Secretary Mar Roxas inspects a stall in a public market in Cagayan De Oro City as part of his tour of the provinces in the hope of monitoring the movement of prices of basic commodities.

GMA guest in Ifugao founding

LAGAWE, Ifugao—True to her new image as the Department of Tourism's "poster girl," President Macapagal-Arroyo will again visit tomorrow this province, known for its centuries-old rice terraces.

Ms Macapagal will attend the 36th Ifugao founding anniversary in this capital town. Dubbed as Gotad 2002, the five-day festivity will highlight the province's rich cultural heritage through ethnic sports competitions, native dances, songs, ethnic ensemble, agro-industrial fair, among other activities.

"Gotad" pertains to the Ifugao festival where indigenous groups come together to celebrate.

The President will meet with officials of the Regional Development Council in the Cordillera. ***PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Gloria to provide PNP ₱200M in funds to wage war on kidnapping

BAGUIO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo will give P200 million to the Philippine National Police for its anti-kidnapping campaign, acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said here on Thursday.

He said part of the money would be used to upgrade facilities and buy surveillance equipment.

"Stopping kidnapping in the country has a symbolic effect to the world. You have a kidnapping here especially of foreigners and this will reverberate in the international press," he said.

Afable said terrorism and poverty usually go together. "Basilan has the lowest human development index of all the provinces. We have children in Basilan who can assemble and disassemble long firearms easily but cannot read or write," he said.

He said the President has asked the PNP to beef up law enforcement in the city streets.

"Look at what (former New York City) Mayor Rudy Guiliani did. He recruited a lot of policemen and let them work first at the basics," Afable said.

"(In New York), if you jaywalk, you are caught. If you paint the subways, you are caught. (These are) small infractions but this method was effective in stopping crime as a whole," he said.

Afable said law enforcement would be made visible in Manila. He said the Metro Manila Development Authority was tasked by the President "to fix up the state of discipline" in the capital region.

"People cross anywhere. Buses stop anywhere. Manila should be made an example not only because it is the seat of government but because it is the entry point for the rest of the world," he said. ***Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Banana firms accused of cheating farmers

DAVAO CITY—Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) in Mindanao who leased their lands to big banana growers were being short-changed in the computation of their production share, a non-government organization working with the farmers said.

Soledad Reyes, executive director of the Mindanao Farmworkers Development Center (MF-DC), said member-companies of the Philippine Banana Growers Exporters Association (PBGEA) have only been paying ARBs P24 per box of bananas harvested.

Reyes said the production share should have been $2.6 per box.

Based on this computation, she said that ARBs now want PBGEA member-companies to pay them the difference from 1988 to 1998, which amounts to billions of pesos.

An organization of ARBs, which leased its land to the Tagum Development Corp. (Tadeco) in Davao del Norte, is demanding to be paid a differential of P337 million from 1988 until 1997.

Under Republic Act 6657 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, individuals or entities owning or operating lands under lease agreements are mandated to execute a production-sharing plan if their sales exceed P5 million per year.

Based on the law, the sharing plan should be 3 percent of gross sales from the production of lands under lease agreement and 1 percent of the gross sales for managerial and supervisory groups.

However, the PBGEA defines gross sales as the actual value of bananas at the time they were harvested from the land.

The farmgate price, which is 70 percent, includes expenses on harvesting, pesticides and other chemical inputs, planting and land preparation. Thirty percent is deducted for packing, trucking and shipping. ***Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

New province seen answer to feud

COTABATO CITY—Warring clans from both sides of Maguindanao might finally settle their differences with the impending division of the province.

Maguindanao 2nd Dist. Rep. Guimid Matalam said at least two bills, which seek to split Maguindanao, have been filed in the Regional Legislative Assembly (RLA), the national legislature's equivalent in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Maguindanao is one of the five provinces comprising the ARMM.

Matalam said the bills both offer compromise solutions to feuds involving political clans.

He said even President Macapagal-Arroyo was supportive of the two bills after she was given a briefing about the resurgence of violence in Maguindanao.

Matalam admitted that most incidents of violence in the province are connected with rivalry between local leaders.

One of the bills seeks to carve out Iranon province from the first district while the other proposal seeks to rename the province into Maguindanao del Sur and Maguindanao del Norte.

"It does not matter which of the bills would be approved. The most important thing is that feuds would cease very soon," he said.

Matalam, former ARMM vice governor, said that the President would call political leaders from Maguindanao to a meeting in Malacañang to discuss the division.

"Any time, we will be summoned to Malacañang to discuss... this matter because the President seemed to support the idea (of creating a new province) if only to appease warring political clans," he said.

Political tension still runs high in Maguindanao with a number of unresolved election cases still pending before the Commission on Elections. One of the cases is the fraud charge filed by re-electionist Gov. Zacaria Candao against incumbent Gov. Andal Ampatuan. ***Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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Erap eyes FPJ for 2004

From page A1

source. Lacson belongs to the LDP and Flavier to the Lakas-NUCD.

Last week, Poe and opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan were reported to be in earnest talks for a possible teamup in 2004.

Opposition members want to meet with Poe because many of them do not know him personally, according to the congressman.

This was confirmed by Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra, who said that during the last meeting of the House minority, there was an agreement to get together with Poe either in August or September.

Mitra said the minority was looking forward to the meeting with the action king.

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen confirmed that the opposition had been considering Poe for a long time.

Strong contender

Dilangalen believes that Poe is a "strong contender" and enjoys popular support.

Asked to comment on the congressman's claim that Flavier was being considered as well, Dilangalen said that he had to verify this. But he said Flavier was "very popular with the masses."

"I don't think he will join the opposition," Dilangalen said, noting that the senator is identified with former President Fidel Ramos. Flavier, a medical doctor, was health secretary during the Ramos administration.

Dilangalen said the opposition had "no choice but to field a common candidate" for 2004 or it may lose to Ms Macapagal.

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla of the LDP said he was not surprised about reports of an Angara-Legarda teamup.

"Loren has always professed neutrality in many issues and she has maintained good friendship from both sides—the majority and the opposition," Remulla, who is in the United States, said in a phone interview.

Two women

Dilangalen said Legarda might be interested in the vice presidency as she could not be an administration candidate as another woman would be running for the top post. He was referring to Ms Macapagal.

Asked if Angara was viewed by the opposition as a possible presidential contender, Dilangalen replied in the negative.

"(M)ore (of the discussions) (centered) on Ping (Lacson as a presidential contender)," Dilangalen said.

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico said opposition groups were expected to field a common candidate for president and vice president.

He said the groups would pick their choices before the end of the year. Personally, Suplico, an LDP member, said that he would support the nomination of Angara.

But Mitra said Angara was more of a "kingmaker" than a presidential contender. "I don't think he's too eager to become President," he added.

As for Legarda, Mitra said she "will be a very good choice for President or Vice President."

If Legarda joins the LDP, she will "bring excitement and deepen the LDP bench," Mitra said.

Malacañang is not intimidated by the reported teamup of Angara and Legarda for 2004, according to acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable.

"At this point, we are not looking at the electoral horizon," Afable said. "So we feel that we can't say if there are any teamups or potential teamup" that is giving the President the political scare.

At least two presidential advisers had earlier confirmed that the President would run in 2004 despite her persistent denials that she was bent on securing a full six-year term.

Jose Ma. Rufino, presidential adviser on political affairs, had said the only remaining question was Ms Macapagal's choice of a running mate.

Recently, the President assumed the chairmanship of the ruling Lakas-NUCD party in yet another sign of her political intentions in 2004.

Another significant development was the revival of her old party, the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino, whose presidency was assumed by her personal publicist Dante Ang.

In a teleconference call with reporters, Afable said the reported Angara-Legarda teamup in the works was "speculative."

"As far as Malacañang is concerned, we don't want to get tangled into partisan issues in relation to the 2004 election," he said. "So let's leave it at that."

Too early

Estrada said it was still "too early" to float names for the 2004 polls, adding that he will probably be more definite about his choice of candidates a year before the elections.

"I've been in politics for a very long time now. I know this (phase) in which combinations are floated just to get the pulse of the people," he said.

Estrada said he himself was once initially rumored to be the running mate of former Senate President Jovito Salonga in the 1992 presidential race.

He ended up winning the vice presidency. He was the running mate of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco of the Nationalist People's Coalition.

"Trends always change as elections draw nearer," he said. ***With a report from Carlito Pablo***

Hot, humid days . . .

From page A1

It said a one-degree rise in the temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean had resulted in punishing rains in Central America, Colombia and Chile as well as drought in Indonesia.

It said El Niño would remain weak-to-moderate this year but it could again cause devastating fires in Northern Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Brazil, while unleashing intense rains on the West Coast of South Africa and Central America.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor urged farmers in six regions in the country hard hit by drought to save water brought on by occasional rains.

6 regions

Montemayor also directed that measures be rushed to mitigate the effects of El Niño, particularly in the regions of Cordillera, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Western and Southern Mindanao.

The Department of Agriculture said insufficient irrigation water and absence of rainfall had adversely affected some 72,755 hectares of agricultural land in the six regions.

The rice and corn-rich Cagayan Valley was hardest hit with 40,208 hectares of farmlands dried up, resulting in production losses of up to P101 million.

But at least 35,788 hectares of the drought-stricken fields in the region can still be rehabilitated, according to Montemayor.

"That's why DA directors and local officials should speed up their El Niño-related efforts. Otherwise overall farm productivity will be undermined and growth targets may not be met," he said.

Montemayor said regional DA officials and local political leaders in the six regions should have already installed shallow tube wells and water storage tanks, and distributed vegetable seeds that require less water to cultivate.

At least P450 million from the El Niño fund will be used in 768 barangays for the installation of shallow tube wells, purchase and distribution of storage tanks and assorted vegetable seeds.

The National Irrigation Administration got another P450 million for the rehabilitation and improvement of irrigation systems and for the purchase of pumps.

Around P100 million has been set aside for information dissemination, forest fire protection, and monitoring of water level and quality.

The impact of El Niño-related droughts includes degradation of the soil, high risk of forest, grass and bush fire as well as water supply shortages.

Droughts could also lead to migration to urban communities and health problems.

Mindanao

In Mindanao, more than 3 million hectares of arable land are highly vulnerable to the effects of the El Niño when it strikes possibly during the last quarter.

Only about half a million hectares of the land are irrigated by the National Irrigation Authority (NIA).

Worse, the NIA expects a 30-percent loss in yield and only 70 percent of the area, or about 350,000 hectares, will translate to actual yield.

Bienvinido Pedregoza, NIA regional director, said, "those irrigated by the NIA will remain green, while the rest will turn brown and dry."

But he quickly added that he was describing a worst-case scenario, which is not likely because the coming El Niño could be "mild but longer."

According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), a "weak" El Niño will hit the country, "with a 65-percent occurrence" at the start of October.

It will last until the first quarter or may extend until May of 2003.

No surprises

Pedregoza said the NIA and other government agencies were already prepared to cushion the effects of the El Niño and expected no surprises this time.

Mitigating measures have already been put in place to alleviate the effects of the drought, he said.

"During the first El Niño, we were caught flat-footed," he said.

In a study conducted by the National Drought Mitigation Center, the country has incurred losses in rice and corn crops amounting to $34 million.

About 3.7 million people were affected by March of 1998. Eight deaths were recorded.

Rice production dropped to 7.82 percent, the lowest national level in 20 years.

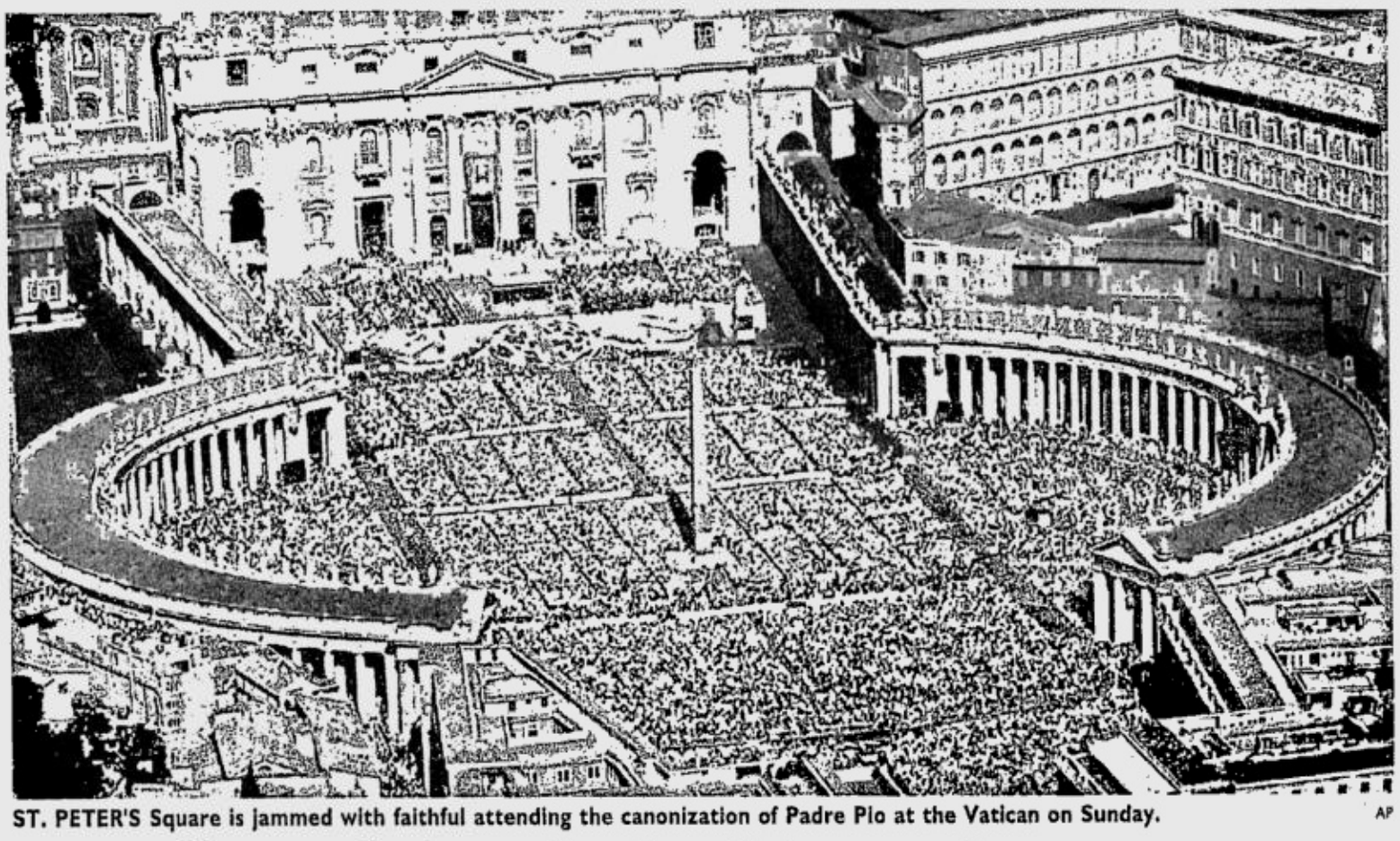
Pedregoza said the government was especially looking at provinces and towns that were hardest hit in the 1997-98 drought, such as Davao del Sur, South Cotabato and Sarangani.

He said of the total P27 million fund allocated for mitigating projects, P25 million has already been covered by a "funding check" and used to rehabilitate canals, water pumps and digging shallow tube wells.

"I think we're well prepared for El Niño," he said.

If the country will experience shortages in rice and corn stocks, the National Food Authority can always import rice from Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand, he said.

The NFA claimed it has enough buffer stock to last for 30 days. ***With a report from Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



ST. PETER'S Square is jammed with faithful attending the canonization of Padre Pio at the Vatican on Sunday. AP

Pontiff proclaims Padre Pio a saint

From page A1

thronged St. Peter's Square and the streets in the vicinity for the ceremony in front of Christendom's largest church.

Cheers and applause went up in Rome and throughout Italy when the 82-year-old Pope, wearing gold and white vestments, proclaimed Padre Pio, who was born in the southern Italian city of Pietrelcina, a saint.

"We include the blessed Pio of Pietrelcina in the annals of saints and we establish that throughout the whole Church he be devotedly honored among the saints," the Pope said, reading a Latin formula in a trembling voice.

Fireworks went off in broad daylight in the southern town of San Giovanni Rotondo, where Padre Pio lived most of his life in a monastery and which is now a pilgrim boomtown with a multimillion-euro economy that revolves around the monk's cult.

At the Vatican, Italian civil protection squads distributed about one million bottles of water and firemen hosed down the crowd to bring relief from the sweltering heat.

Huge screens were placed along the long, broad boulevard that leads from the Tiber River to the Vatican so that pilgrims, many of them using umbrellas and hats to ward off the sun, could follow the ceremony.

The Pope, who is said to be particularly devoted to the Franciscan Capuchin monk who died in 1968 at the age of 81, presided at a solemn ceremony to canonize one of the 20th century's most popular Roman Catholic figures.

Padre Pio was said to have wrestled with the devil in his monastery cell, to have predicted events in the lives of visitors, and to have known what penitents were about to confess. He was also reportedly seen in two places at the same time.

In his homily, John Paul recalled that he had visited Padre Pio when the future Pope was a young priest just after the Second World War. The Pope said he had had the "privilege" to be confessed by Padre Pio.

The Pope has in the past denied reports that Padre Pio predicted he would someday be elected Pope.

John Paul may have been the monk's leading admirer, but only a few decades ago, the Vatican hierarchy scorned Padre Pio. The monk was then ordered silenced by the Church for years.

Pickpockets

Before the ceremony, police warned pilgrims to be on the watch for pickpockets, whose prayers also seemed to be answered by the size of the crowd.

It also was a day made in heaven for souvenir sellers, who lined the streets to hawk Padre Pio hand fans, Padre Pio coffee cups, Padre Pio leather bags and Padre Pio cigarette lighters.

Padre Pio is credited with interceding in at least two miracles, the number required for the Church to confer sainthood.

Before his beatification—the penultimate step before sainthood—Padre Pio was credited with the medically inexplicable healing of an Italian woman who had a lung disease.

The second miracle was the curing of an Italian boy, Matteo Collella, now 11, who had meningitis when he was 9 and whose mother prayed to Padre Pio while her son was in a coma. The boy attended the ceremony.

The bearded Pio lived most of his life in a monastery where people had to make appointments to have him hear their confessions.

He had wounds in the hands, feet and side that corresponded with the wounds Christ suffered at the Crucifixion. He used brown fingerless gloves to absorb the blood and cover the wounds except when he said Mass.

Doctors were at a loss to explain the wounds, which never produced gangrene or infection.

Paramedics

With the high humidity making the air suffocating, paramedics were busy tending to people feeling faint.

Many had arrived hours before the ceremony began at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) to secure a seat. As the Pope began reciting opening prayers, paramedics carried out at least one woman who was fainting and led away a hysterical young Italian man crying out that he couldn't handle the pressing of the crowds.

Some pilgrims and Romans gave up trying to reach a place where they could watch the Pope, who looked weak as he sat in a chair under a canopy shielding him from the sun beating down on the square.

Italian state radio said that about 500,000 admirers of Padre Pio were expected. Only days earlier, Rome's prefect, Emilio Del Mese, in charge of law and order, had estimated that 250,000 would come.

Police had no immediate crowd estimate, and thousands of people were still arriving well into the ceremony.

"The sun will scorch you!" yelled a vendor hawking paper hats, but many pilgrims were armed with umbrellas against the sun. Many prelates held umbrellas in the yellow-and-white colors of the Vatican. ***Reports from Reuters and AP***

'I was kidnapped. Help me, Father'

From page A1

kidnappers. Please hide me."

This was how Dr. Charmaine Ong, the daughter of a Chinese-Filipino businessman, began her final journey to safety, according to Fr. Lennard Flores, parish priest of the Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Barangay Dolores here.

Flores recounted to the INQUIRER the events that took place on Saturday, even as top officials of the Philippine National Police in Manila stood pat on their earlier pronouncement that no ransom had been paid.

Flores said he mistook Ong as one of the godmothers of about half a dozen children he was baptizing that day.

"The baptism rite was over some minutes before noon. I just stepped down from the altar when she approached me. I thought she was late and wanted to have a photograph taken with one of the children I was baptizing," he recalled.

"She looked distraught and so I asked her, 'Any problem, sister?' The question elicited her pleas for help," he said.

At first, Flores, 53, did not believe the woman. But she looked very upset. "*Nanginginig siya* (She was shaking)," he recalled.

Flores took Ong to the convent at the back of the church. There, he asked her if she wanted him to call the police or barangay officials to tell them about the incident or seek help for her security.

Ong rejected his offer. She asked that she be allowed to use the telephone.

Flores said Ong then contacted her sister in Valenzuela City, about an hour's drive south of this city. But even after contacting her family, Ong still looked worried and was fidgety, he said.

The priest admitted that in giving her refuge, he also worried about the safety of his own staff.

Behind cabinets

"Whenever somebody came inside the convent, she hid behind cabinets," Flores recalled. She refused food and drank only a glass of water.

Trying to douse the doubts of the priest, Ong told Flores: "*Nasa dyaryo po ako* (My story is in the papers)."

Ong, a dermatologist, also showed him her doctor's license.

Flores said the details that she gave—primarily her being the daughter of the owner of the CDO meat factory, her being kidnapped after she stepped out of her clinic in Marulas on Thursday night and her driver being shot and wounded—matched what he had read in the newspapers.

But Ong did not give details of her ordeal or how she managed to escape, he said.

In Manila, incoming PNP chief and anti-kidnapping czar Hermogenes Ebdane told reporters that there "was no ransom payment, these are plain rumors."

PNP National Capital Region chief Edgardo Aglipay was even more categorical. "It is true that Charmaine was able to escape and there was no ransom paid. That is all that we can say about the money," he said.

The police officials' statements came amid reports that some members of the Chinese community have maintained that an unspecified amount was paid as ransom.

An operation against her abductors is ongoing. But Aglipay said he could not reveal details about the operation.

In February, PNP chief Leandro Mendoza said areas outside Metro Manila were becoming the new bases of kidnap-for-ransom syndicates.

"The trend is outside . . . Metro Manila," Mendoza said then. "We're looking into it very deeply."

Refuge and calm

Flores said he did not ask Ong too many questions or urge her to recall her ordeal because she "looked incoherent at times" while she was waiting for her relatives to arrive.

"I could only offer her refuge and calm," the priest said.

Ong said she rode in a jeepney from Angeles City, some 20 km north of this city. Angeles is at the crossroads toward Olongapo City, Bataan and Zambales to the west and Bulacan, Valenzuela and Metro Manila to the south.

The church is some 30 meters from the city junction, where buses bound for the west and south pass.

Ong's father and her two sisters arrived at past 1 p.m. on Saturday to fetch her, Flores said.

Yesterday, at 3 a.m., police officers raided a house in Angeles City where Ong's kidnappers reportedly held her on Thursday.

Senior Supt. Arturo Cacdac, Pampanga police director, said the house at 29 California St. in Villa Sol Subdivision was found abandoned.

Explaining the absence of a report on the incident, Cacdac said the city police were informed of the incident only on Saturday.

The kidnappers have yet to be identified or arrested, he said.

A car believed to have been used by the kidnappers was found abandoned on Narra Street in Barangay Malabanias here on Friday night. The car, a red Nissan with license Plate No. TPE 218, is now in the custody of the city police.

Cacdac said various fake identification cards, including police IDs, were found in the vehicle. ***With reports from Martin Marfil and Bert Basa, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Administration bloc raiding us–Angara

By Jerry Esplanada

"WE'RE still in the saddle but the administration bloc is trying to raid us," opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara said.

Angara said the administration coalition's "prime targets" were the four reelectionist senators in his camp—Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Rodolfo Biazon, Robert Jaworski and Tessie Aquino-Oreta.

"They've been offered assured seats (in the administration's 2004 senatorial slate) and campaign financing," Angara told the INQUIRER.

He described the administration's *"taga-lakad* (operator)" as "really very good. They're using friends of the four senators to help them do the courting."

But Angara said he was confident the raiders would not succeed.

"I can't see anyone jumping ship. There are no indications whatsoever. We share information that is why we know the administration bloc's moves," he said.

Angara said, "opposition senators going to the administration bloc smacks of opportunism. But if it's majority senators going to the minority it's another story. That's almost an act of heroism."

Contrary to some reports, Angara said Jaworski was "not likely to be influenced by his father-in-law (administration Sen. Ramon Revilla) into joining the administration coalition. I think it's the other way around."

Angara disclosed that the opposition was also courting administration bloc members, including Senators Noli de Castro, Manuel Villar and Juan Flavier.

"They're not really solidly pro-administration. Everybody's familiar with the history of the Senate. It's not really party line for us. It has always been coalition," Angara said.

When Congress opens on July 22, Angara said the administration coalition "will have a problem, not us."

"It will still be 12 senators in our favor and only 11 in the administration bloc. When Revilla returns from the US, they'll be 12. 12-12 is a deadlock. In a stalemate whoever is incumbent will remain in the saddle and the opposition is in the saddle," he pointed out. ***With a report from Rocky Nazareno***

Senate still deadlocked

From page A1

journment of June 3 or 13 (based on the total Senate membership of 24)—will be resolved only in a headcount when Congress resumes session on July 22.

As matters now stand, there has been no firm commitment on the part of Legarda, Flavier and Barbers to cross over to the opposition, and both camps are holding their lines.

And so, the situation remains fluid.

Legarda

Legarda on Saturday issued a statement reiterating her "firm position" that she is sticking with the administration party, Lakas-NUCD. But she said, "We must exhaust all avenues in order to come up with a workable and mutually agreeable solution." This statement sparked speculation that she was considering the option of working with a new majority to break the deadlock.

She told me that she was keeping an open mind in exploring options, including a proposal by former Senate President Jovito Salonga for both sides to form an arbitration mechanism.

She said, "this moment is crucial for all of us in the Senate" because the people "are watching closely what we are doing to resolve" the impasse. She could be more right when she said the public had been "observing us great displeasure" over the paralysis of Senate business.

The speculation over her switch started when she joined Angara on June 12 in a private plane for a trip to Antique, where she was a guest speaker at the Independence Day celebrations there.

She told me that Angara had asked her when she was "moving over." She replied: "I'm staying with my party." But in a press conference in San Jose, the provincial capital, she and Angara argued over the legal issue of what constitutes a majority.

Flavier

Flavier told me: "I did not switch." To clarify his position, he said Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito had asked her last week about an offer by opposition leaders to chair the committee on health. Flavier chairs the committee.

Flavier said: "It's OK with me. As far as I am concerned, they have the numbers." But he qualified that the legal question of what makes the majority was still unsettled.

Flavier agreed that numbers would decide that issue when the Senate resumes session on July 22.

Drilon said he had talked to Flavier and Legarda on Saturday and that they assured him they were not switching over to the opposition.

Drilon said Angara had told Leviste that there was deep resentment in the opposition against the so-called House bloc composed of Senators Manuel Villar, Joker Arroyo and Ralph Recto because of their hardline partisan attitudes; that the three were the "principal reason" for the fissures in the Senate; and the opposition did not like Sen. Rene Cayetano to assume the Senate presidency after Drilon.

In his interview with me, Angara confirmed an implacable hostility between him and Arroyo. The "belligerent statement of Arroyo" that he "cannot sleep with the enemy" in the early sessions of the Senate, according to Angara, "set the tone for partisanship."

Angara admitted that the opposition had "not yet" increased its numbers. "What we got is the acknowledgment that we have the majority," he said. "That is a breakthrough in the mindset" about what constitutes the majority.

He said the actual crossover was "only a matter of time."

Angara told Legarda that it was difficult to "bring the troops" behind a coalition led by Drilon. It was also problematic to build a coalition on Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr. or John Osmeña.

Pimentel, who fancies himself in the role of a swing man, has actually no clout in the Senate nor does he have a party base.

Broad-based coalition

Apparently, Angara, who is believed to be the architect in the move to seize Senate leadership for the opposition, is working for a board-based coalition that can win over moderate members of the administration senators.

He is targeting Flavier, Legarda, Barbers and Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

Drilon believes that Angara is gunning for the Senate presidency. His perception is reinforced by what Angara told me.

Angara said a new coalition based on a core of moderates could form a basis of cooperation with the administration over an agenda built on consensus similar to the congressional cooperation with the Ramos administration.

But before Angara can reshape the identity of the opposition not as an obstructionist but one based on issues and an alternative political agenda, he has to isolate opposition members closely identified with former President Joseph Estrada and the ultra-right tendency represented by Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

What I can see is that tensions between Angara and Lacson, whose presidential ambitions are ill concealed, are building up over the ideological remaking of the opposition.

Before Angara can swing the moderates in the administration camp to a new majority with a broader base, he has to distance himself from the controversial Lacson.

If the opposition is to remake its role as a constructive option, it has to resolve this tension.

The struggle in the opposition, which is masked by the more immediate issue of who has the majority in the Senate, is about the soul and ideology of the opposition.

Thus we have in the Senate two levels of conflict—one between the administration senators and the opposition senators, and the other between Angara and Lacson.

Confessed 'taray' . . .

From page A1

Network's station manager in Zamboanga City by telling him on air that he was suspected to be a supporter of the Abu Sayyaf.

His mistake was that he reminded her that she had vowed to crush the bandit group as early as last year and asked if she had any new directives to the military since the bandits were still roaming freely.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said the untitled 30-minute radio program, which features the President delivering opening and closing statements in between a question-and-answer segment, had been suspended indefinitely.

"It's because she has a lot of trips to the provinces," Afable said.

He said dropping the program was a "quick decision" made by the President so that her visits to the provinces would not be disrupted.

"*Para tuloy-tuloy yung mga trip niya*, so most of her media exposure will be in the provinces," Afable said.

The aborted radio program joins the quite long list of media settings that Malacañang had experimented with to project the mercurial image of Ms Macapagal.

The plans were ditched one after the other as Ms Macapagal was usually provoked by reporters' questions, thus reinforcing her image as a snooty person.

The first to go was her weekly press conferences that were televised live. She would sometimes berate media on-cam.

The Palace also did away with "ambush interviews" which officials said were demeaning of the status of the President.

Ms Macapagal's media handlers then tried weekly lunches with small groups of reporters, supposedly to draw in-depth exchanges. But these encounters, too, were junked.

Her "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo" radio program every Saturday was also scrapped, partly because, as the President herself noted, it could not compete with cartoon programs being shown during the weekend.

Aside from her Monday program, Ms Macapagal is being interviewed every Wednesday over Bombo Radyo, but she has not been heard over the past three weeks.

On Saturday, the President delivered a brief radio message calling for the people's support in the fight against terrorism. Evidently, this controlled setting is the communication form preferred by Malacañang.

What media exposure the President stands to lose will be compensated by her trips to the provinces where she can be seen in flesh by people. Today, she is set to visit Iloilo City and spend the night there.

Security measures have been heightened amid plans of militant groups to greet her with protest actions.

Senior Supt. Rolando Rabara, Iloilo City police chief, said all police units had been placed on red alert. Three more platoons from the provincial police office would augment the security forces. ***(See story on Page A7.)***

Tomorrow, she will be in Ifugao and will proceed to Baguio City in the afternoon. She will sleep over in the City of Pines and will be back in Malacañang on Wednesday.

Mel Tiangco with some beneficiaries of Bisig Bayan.

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Tiger holds off foes with 4-shot margin

FARMINGDALE, New York—The U.S. Open came to life Saturday when two of Tiger Woods' biggest rivals suddenly closed in on his lead.

That's when the alarm went off.

Jolted awake by thunderous cheers for birdie putts by Sergio Garcia and Phil Mickelson, Woods responded with his best golf of the day—along with his only two birdies—for an even-par 70 and a four-stroke lead after three rounds.

After struggling with his swing on the easiest day for scoring at Bethpage Black, Woods was poised to become the first player since Jack Nicklaus in 1972 to claim the first two legs of the Grand Slam.

He won the Masters in April by building an early lead and watching everyone else get out of the way. That might not be the case in a final round that is suddenly dripping with drama.

Woods was at 5-under 205 and will be paired in the final group Sunday with Garcia, a rivalry that has been brewing for the last three years and intensified the last day.

Garcia ignored heckles about his waggles and girlfriend Martina Hingis and turned in his best score at a U.S. Open, a 3-under 67 that included a near ace on No. 14 and a 20-foot (6-meter) birdie on the 16th.

Mickelson, who claims to be one of the few players who can stand up to Woods, made seven birdies in a calamitous round that nonetheless added to 67 and left him at even-par 210. He is still in the hunt for his first major championship.

"I grinded my butt off today," said Woods, who didn't make a birdie until the 15th hole. "I didn't hit the ball really well, but I hung around."

He's right where everyone expected, and that doesn't make the task for Garcia and Mickelson easy.

Woods is 23-2 when he has at least a share of the lead going into the final round, and he's never lost a 54-hole lead in a major championship.

Throw in a New York gallery that has become more boisterous each day, and it could be quite a finish.

"It's going to be tough for both of us," Woods said.

What could make it even juicier are the sassy comments from Garcia on Friday, when he complained that Woods was getting all the breaks and received preferential treatment.

Garcia thought there was too much water on the greens and in the fairway for the second round to continue. ***AP***

WOODS reacts after missing a birdie on the sixth green. AFP

3RD ROUND SCORES

Tiger Woods	67-68-70-205
Sergio Garcia	68-74-67-209
Phil Mickelson	70-73-67-210
Jeff Maggert	69-73-68-210
Robert Allenby	74-70-67-211
Billy Mayfair	69-74-68-211
Padraig Harrington	70-68-73-211
Nick Faldo	70-76-66-212
Justin Leonard	73-71-68-212
Tom Byrum	72-72-70-214
Scott McCarron	72-72-70-214
Davis Love III	71-71-72-214
Mark O'Meara	76-70-69-215
Charles Howell III	71-74-70-215
Dudley Hart	69-76-70-215
K.J.Choi	69-73-73-215
Nick Price	72-75-69-216

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Annika prevails again

EVIAN-LES-BAINS, France—Annika Sorenstam swept to her second Evian Masters title and her sixth victory of the season worldwide when she shot a final-round, 3-under-par 69 Saturday over the Evian Masters course to win by four shots.

Four shots clear overnight, the current world No. 1 turned in another cool, trademark display at the Evian Masters course, with four birdies and one bogey, for 269 (-19).

"I couldn't feel better," Sorenstam said. "This is the second-biggest purse on the Tour. A beautiful setting, a top-class field and a first-class event. It was my goal to come over and win the Evian and I've done it."

After a banner season last year when she won eight times, the Swede announced she would do better in 2002. ***AP***

Go scores 65, captures PriceSmart-PMA title

ALEX Go submitted a net seven-under-par 65 to emerge the overall champion of the PriceSmart-PMA Class '78 Golf Classic held recently at the challenging Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club course.

Go showed up a field of 160 participants among them PMA alumni, officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and invited guests in the 18-hole tourney which served as a fund-raiser for the Makatarungan Foundation of the PMA Class '78.

The Foundation was set up by the sponsoring class for its various outreach projects, most especially in helping the children of deceased classmates.

Felix Pascual, Col. Efren Daquil, Jun Antonio and Matet Salivio were the other division winners.

Pascual lost the overall title to Go just by one stroke under the System 36 format and settled for the Class A crown.

Daquil and Antonio both tallied net 68s in winning the Class B and Class C divisions, respectively, while Salivio, a topnotch jungolfer set to compete in international events next month, easily won the ladies division with a 67.

PriceSmart, formerly known as the S&R Price Membership Shopping with branches at The Fort, Congressional Ave. and Ortigas Ave. extension, is the major sponsor of the tournament.

Organizing committee head Col. Delfin Bangit said that the success of the event was made possible by the full support of the whole Class '78 and their numerous friends from the private sector.

PBL series gets going

GAMES TODAY
(Makati Coliseum)
3 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs Kutitap Toothpaste (for 3rd, best-of-3)
5 p.m.—Ateneo-Hapee-Nenaco vs Blu (championship, best-of-5)

THE DEADLY troika of Enrico Villanueva, Rich Alvarez and pintsized Celino Cruz holds the key as Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation seeks to join the elite winners' roster when it battles equally title-hungry Blu Sun Power today in the PBL Chairman's finals at the Makati Coliseum.

Game 1 of the best-of-five championship series is set at 5 p.m., with neither team enjoying the decisive edge. ICTSI-La Salle meets Kutitap Toothpaste in their own best-of-three series for third.

Blu is eyeing its first title in four years. ***Dennis Eroa***

Lakers' 'stealth bomber'

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

OF course, Shaquille O'Neal was the biggest singular factor why the title "three-peating" LA Lakers knocked off the new Jersey Nets senseless in this year's NBA Finals.

However, there were other contributory factors that led to the Lakers' 4-0 sweep of the Nets.

• The Kobe option

The Nets concentrated a lot on stopping Shaq that they somewhat forgot about Kobe Bryant, who quietly averaged 26.8 points (on .514 FG shooting, including an impressive .545 from three-point range), 5.8 rebounds, 5.3 assists and 1.50 steals during the four-game series in a brilliant all-around performance. As Sports Illustrated's Marty Burns said, if O'Neal was LA's nuclear bomb against the Nets, Kobe was the stealth bomber.

• The Lakers' supporting cast

New Jersey coach Byron Scott dared the Lakers' role players to beat his team from the outside and they readily accepted the challenge. Point guard Derek Fisher, who struggled mightily on both ends of the floor in LA's come-from-behind 4-3 triumph over the Sacramento Kings in the Western finals, bounced back from a prolonged slump to become a consistent third Lakers point-producer with a 12.8 average (13-12-13-13) on .515FG-shooting, including a mind-boggling .667 (8-of-12) from the three-point area.

In addition to Fisher, Robert Horry (in Game 3) and Rick Fox and reserves Brian Shaw and Devean George (3-of-4 three-pointers and 11 points in Game 4 and a series .6000 three-point FG accuracy) knocked in their perimeter shots at crucial stages of games. In the series-clinching Game 4, the Lakers went 11-of-19 from beyond the three-point arc.

• Jackson's cool bench presence

During Games 3 and 4, when the Nets threatened to mount a serious rally and score a victory, Lakers coach-Zen philosopher Phil Jackson stood calm and did not push the panic button, preferring to let his players regain composure on their own.

Camara golden goal lifts Senegal to quarterfinals

OITA, Japan—Senegal's Henri Camara snatched only the second golden goal in World Cup history to stun Sweden 2-1 and claim a quarterfinal place on Sunday.

Camara struck his second goal of the match after 104 minutes with a low drive into the bottom left-hand corner of the net off the post, setting off wild celebrations among the African fans attending their first World Cup.

"It was not luck. We are seeing the birth of a great team," said Senegal coach Bruno Metsu.

"You really feel empty after a match like this. I congratulate Senegal. They are very physical, very strong and very good footballers but I felt we were at least as good as them," said his opposite number Lars Lagerback.

Sweden took the lead through Henrik Larsson's 11th-minute header only for debutants Senegal, who shocked holders France 1-0 in the opening game of the tournament, to equalise through Camara eight minutes before halftime.

The only previous occasion when a World Cup tie was settled by a golden goal was four years ago when France beat Paraguay 1-0 in the second round, with central defender Laurent Blanc grabbing the all-important strike on the way to their title win.

Senegal is only the second African nation, after Cameroon in 1990, to reach the last eight.

The winners will now play Japan or Turkey in the quarterfinals. Whatever the result, a team which has never reached the semifinal of the World Cup will qualify for the last four here.

Spain and Ireland were still playing as of presstime. ***Reuters***

HENRI Camara (middle) of Senegal scoring the golden goal as Sweden's Teddy Lucic (16) and Tobias Linderoth look on. REUTERS

Frenchman rules 5th round; JP sparkles

ZHUHAI, China—Local spectactors roared in unison when their adopted hometown hero, Frenchman Philippe Descombes of FRD Harbour View, executed a perfect start and ran a flawless race to win Round 5 of the 2002 Asian Formula Challenge at China's Zhuhai International Circuit recently.

The race began on a dramatic note when Japan's Sei Koga of FRD KVR, shot his hand up right before tension-filled start, forcing a re-start.

When the cars re-formed on the grid, everything seemed in order and, one by one, the red lights went out. Just as the field shot off the line, Tom's Zed driver and Asian Formula 3 Championship series leader Jojo Silverio, who was in fifth, and rookie Jonathan Chan of Vertex Motorsports, who was in third, stalled their cars and were narrowly missed by the onrushing field.

Silverio was pushed back into the pits to retire, but Jonathan was able to continue to eventually finish eighth.

Descombes, meanwhile, sprinted away from pole but was threatened at every comer by Great Britain's Mark Goddard of Castrol Team Goddard.

On lap four, Goddard slid on the exit of Turn 14 and nearly left the track, giving Descombes a 7-second margin. Goddard attributed the incident to oil on the track.

Based on their finishing positions in Round 5, Descombes and Goddard will start on the front row in the next round.

The Philippines' best finish came courtesy of TRP Team Oxygen's JP Tuason, who finished in sixth place.

Filipino Enzo Pastor finally clinched his first race victory in Round 5 of the Asian Formula Renault Championship. Pastor inched ahead of pole man and current championship leader Franky Cheng and consolidated his lead as Cheng faltered on lap 2, dropping to seventh before clawing his way back to second on the podium.

The win lifted Pastor up to second behind Cheng in the 2002 standings and pole for the start of round 6.

Korea prevails

KOREA'S Yon Sei University got off to a powerful start following a lopsided 102-87 victory over University of Santo Tomas in yesterday's opening of the Spring Cooking Oil-3rd Asian University Basketball Championship at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Streak shooter Bang Sung Yoon led the Koreans' offense with 24 points, including three triples in a pivotal 16-4 roll that gave the visitors a 56-47 lead at the half.

The Koreans took their biggest lead at 87-66, six minutes left in the game.

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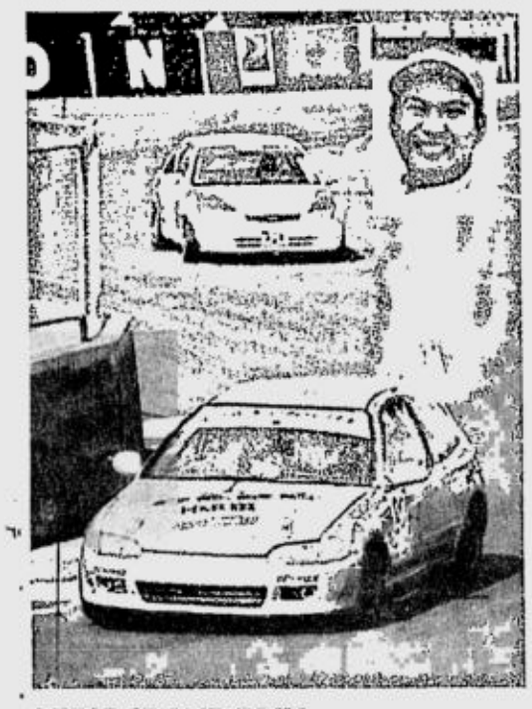

SUBIC GRAND PRIX
Mike Aguilar of Castrol-Velocity Motors-Cebe Eyewear negotiates a sharp curve during the sixth round of the Blaze super saloon race in the SVI-Petron Grand Prix at the Subic International Raceway recently. Aguilar (inset), who is supported by YMCA Enterprises, Tender Bob's and A-toy Fiberglass, finished a close second to Jody Coseteng.

Ucap derby tomorrow

THE OPTIMUM Property Management Inc., in cooperation with the United Cockers Association of the Philippines will present the UCAP Clean-Up Derby on Tuesday (June 18) at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

Submission of weights is today (June 17), from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

As a gesture of gratitude to thousands of cockfight afficionados who followed the recently-concluded UCAP 2002 Cocker of the Year race, the OMPI management lowered the admission fees on Tuesday: P300 for ringside and P200 for general admission.

To be fielded in this one-day cockfest are the remaining derby fighters and unscathed derby aces of UCAP members.

Last Thursday, June 13, two entries topped the BNB 4-Cock Derby. These were Sagupaan Hammer of sabong idol Patrick Antonio and Guts and Glory of Alex Tang and Nelson Co.

Meanwhile, another 4-cocker is slated on Thursday, June 20, to be hosted by Jojo Alcovendaz of San Juan.

SPORTS ON TV Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: PGA Bellsouth Senior Classic, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r – 9:30 p.m.) on Star Sports
TENNIS: Wimbledon Official Film 1997 at 7 p.m. on Star Sports
MOTOR SPORTS: FIM World Motorcycle Championship at 9 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

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Hewitt nears record

LONDON—Top seed Lleyton Hewitt edged closer to the Queen's Club record books on Saturday when he breezed past Dutchman Sjeng Schalken 7-6, 6-3 to reach the final of the Stella Artois Championships.

Australian Hewitt is bidding to join John McEnroe as the only player to win three successive Stella titles.

He is now just one match away and must take on Britain's Tim Henman in Sunday's title match—a re-run of last year's final.

Henman survived a spirited fight and a rain delay to beat Dutchman Raemon Sluiter 6-7, 6-4, 6-2.

Hewitt did just enough to squeeze past the experienced Schalken.

The twice defending champion now has an 18-2 record at Queen's Club, and the Australian is just one match away from equalling McEnroe's feat of three consecutive titles achieved between 1979-81.

"It was tough out there," said Hewitt. "I felt like the court was playing a little bit quicker than the last few days. ***Reuters***

'Sabong' Olympics 2002

CLEAN LIVING
Manolo R. Iñigo

THERE is intense interest among cockfighting buffs in the World Slasher 8-Cock Derby which begins today at the Big Dome chiefly because the outcome of what has been widely accepted as the "Olympics of Cockfighting" will decide the winner of the prestigious NCA Cocker of the Year.

Organized by the pioneer National Cockers Association and sponsored by perennial sports patron Thunderbird, makers of Enertone, the first ready-mixed maintenance feeds, points earned in this three-day World Slasher Derby (June 17, 19-21) will be added to the scores of the just-ended NCA regular derbies in deciding the Cocker of the Year. At present, it's too close to call in the Coty race since two battle-tested entries are setting the pace within striking distance of each other. They are R&B Farm I of Rep. Claude Bautista and Boyboy Roa with 73 points and Spencer Winslet of first leg World Slasher winners William Co and Dicky Lim with 70. Also in the running, but not close on the leaders' heels, are Firefly Thunderbird 13 of the Firefly Group (65 points), Mulawin of Frank Berin, Boyet Joson and Rep. Rudy Albano (55.5), Firefly Thunderbird 8 of Ram Lopez and the Firefly Group (53), BL Laura of Boy de Roca and Louie Cua 52), Fantastic-A/J Cap of Alan Tan and John Capinpin (51), Combine Harvester of Philip Chiongbian and Johnny Jalandoni (50.5) and Binangonan MK of three-term Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares and Manny Kho (49).

Defending champion Geran of engineer Gerry Fevidal had a bad year in 2002, garnering only 38.5 points at the end of the NCA derby calendar. In 2001, Geran emerged the winner, nosing out PBRJ Binangonan by one nerve-frazzling point, 68-67, with the narrow victory enabling Fevidal to join the big boys club of Philippine cockfighting composed of past winners Nene Araneta (1994), Mario Villamor of Phoenix fame (1995), back-to-back champion Jun Santiago (1996-1997), Patrick Antonio (1998) and Rudy Albano (1999-2000). Incidentally for this World Slasher Derby, Villamor will be fielding Tony Trebol fighting cocks bred in Bacolod following the death of his American partner, famous cocker-breeder Billy Abbott.

The odds are about even in the World Slasher, but the wise money will be on well-known and respected Filipino cocker-breeders. They are Nene Araneta, Danding Cojuangco, ageless James Chiongbian, Ito Ynares, Jun Santiago, Pampanga's noted Jun and Rudy Jingco, longtime partners Peping Cojuangco and Esting Teopaco, former PBA Commissioner Rudy Salud, hotelier Biboy Enriquez, Meycauayan Mayor Eddie Alarilla, Rudy Albano, Pacifico and Frank Berin, Dicky Lim and brothers Alex and Gerry Escalona.

* * *

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2002

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ● Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

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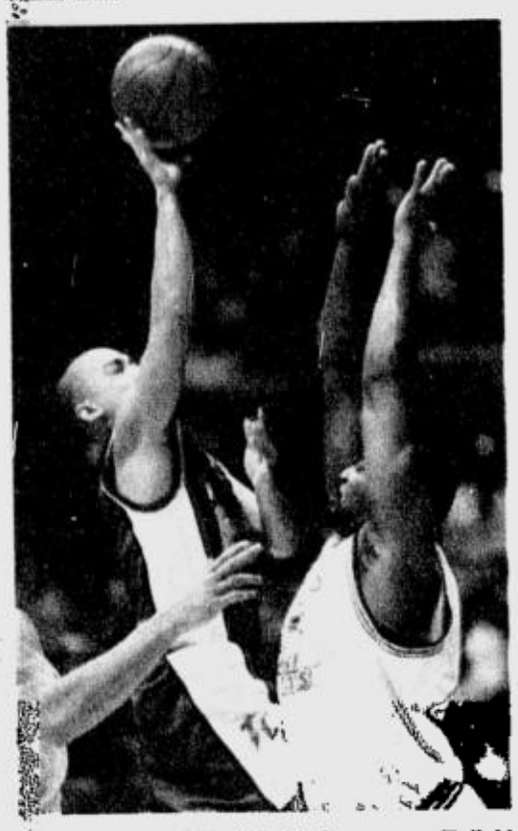

RENSY Bajar of Shell (left) shoots over Talk N Tex import Gerald Honeycutt. ROMY HOMILLADA

Talk N Text trounces Shell

By June Navarro

GAME TOMORROW (Cuneta Astrodome)
7 p.m.—Fedex vs Coca-Cola

GERALD Honeycutt had a feast inside the paint as Talk N Text posted an easy 89-72 win over Shell yesterday in the opener of the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The 6-foot-8 Honeycutt, who mocked every defender thrown at him, banged in 29 points, hauled 16 rebounds and issued six assists to lead the Phone Pals.

Danny "Boogs" Johnson, the shortest among all imports in the conference at 6-foot-2, complemented Honeycutt from the outside as the Charleston University product finished with 27 points, including four triples.

"It's a good way to start the conference. Shell is a better team but we overcame the odds and beat them," said American coach Bill Bayno of Talk N Text.

With Honeycutt and Johnson combining well, the Phone Pals started pulling away from the Turbo Chargers at the start of the third period.

By the time the final 10 minutes of the game was about to start, the Phone Pals had already produced a 71-51 lead.

The Phone Pals allowed the Turbo Chargers to come near, 73-58, but Johnson and Honeycutt clustered seven straight points that took the fight out of Shell.

"We grew a lot after our debacle last conference. We had some letdowns but they maintained the lead in the stretch. It's big step if we want to reach the playoffs," said Bayno.

It was quite different, Bayno added, from the Phone Pals of old, who got booted out by the eighth-seeded San Miguel Beermen at the start of the playoffs last conference.

"It's inexperience more than anything else. We have to overcome inexperience and play consistently even in the playoffs," said Bayno.

Patrick Fran, Elmer Lago and Gilbert Demape conspired with Johnson and Honeycutt that allowed the Phone Pals to race to a 48-38 lead at halftime.

In the second game, Batang Red Bull spanked Barangay Ginebra, 81-69, to keep pace with the Phone Pals.

Scores:

TALK 'N TEXT 89—Honeycutt 29, Johnson 27, Lago 8, Telan 7, Pablo 6, Fran 6, Demape 4, Belano 2.

SHELL 72—Jones 24, Webber 19, Wainwright 9, Dela Cruz 6, Bajar 5, Calaguio 3, Del Rosario 2, Esplana 2, Lim 2

Quarters: 24-25, 48-38, 71-51, 89-72.

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RCPI drubs Casino foes

GAMES TODAY (San Fernando, Pampanga)
3:30 p.m.—Batangas vs Pangasinan
6:00 p.m.—Olongapo vs. Pampanga

MATI, Davao—The RCPI Negros Slashers bared razor-sharp form in trouncing the Casino Cagayan de Oro Amigos, 103-94, in the NBA National Conference at the Davao Oriental Sports and Cultural Center here.

Led by former MVP John Ferriols and rising star Dino Aldeguer, the Slashers led by as many as 10 points in the fourth quarter, 99-89, as they bared their readiness to follow up their victory in the First Conference.

Ferriols ruled the board and scored on inside thrusts even as Aldeguer ripped the Amigos' defenses apart with his all-around brilliance.

The 5-foot-10 Aldeguer wound up with 22 points, nine rebounds, six assists and four steals to earn best player of the game honors.

Ferriols, the 1998 MBA inaugurals MVP added 15 points and hauled down 17 rebounds against the taller Amigos, who drew 28 points form Ricky Calimag. ***Roy Luarca***

JOCKEY Fernando Raquel Jr. takes it easy as Wind Blown charges to the finish line. JESS YUSON

Wind Blown back to old, deadly form

By Edwin Villanueva

WELCOME back, champ!

Wind Blown swept into the limelight again by ruling the PRCI-Philracom Independence Day Main Race yesterday at the Santa Ana Park.

The 2001 Horse of the Year quashed Batangas Entry's challenge, kicking clear at midstretch to win the 1,600-meter event by five lengths.

"I'm glad he has regained his old form. That victory was for all the fans *na patuloy ang pagsuporta kay* Wind Blown," said sportsman-businessman Hermie Esguerra after his prized galloper won his first major race following a much-deserved rest.

With star jockey Fernando Raquel Jr. at the reins, Wind Blown bobbed heads with Batangas Entry from the backstretch before showing the bigger strides when they straightened out for home. Winning time was a fast 1:40.4 (24-25-23.5-28).

Batangas Entry, pressed early on by Sunny Contender, eventually faded to third, with Staunch Ally snatching second spot. Sunny Contender wound up last.

Wind Blown bagged P400,000, while Staunch Ally, the horse who stopped Wind Blown's winning streak by ruling the Commissioner's Cup, got P100,000.

Esguerra said Wind Blown will compete again in the Gran Copa de Manila when he defends his Division I title.

The June 24 outing at San Lazaro promises to be another blockbuster as Wind Blown meets Silver Story, another comebacking horse who swept the 2001 Triple Crown series. Also joining that race are Batangas Entry and Staunch Ally.

WPD cops: Who's trigger-happy? /A27

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

Abalos to Fernando: Inspire Metro mayors

By Christian V. Esguerra

"BAYANI knows what to do," outgoing Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said yesterday. "He has the expertise and the experience. I know he'll be able to win the mayors' commitment to service."

Abalos was referring to his successor, Bayani Fernando, the former mayor of Marikina City credited with transforming the once sleepy town in eastern Metro Manila into one of the country's cleanest and greenest places.

On the eve of his departure from the MMDA to head the Commission on Elections, Abalos gave Fernando this advice: "Harness the cooperation and unity among mayors belonging to different party lines and inspire them to commit to the service of Metro Manila."

This morning, Fernando is scheduled to take over the MMDA in formal rites at the MMDA office in Makati.

Abalos also cited San Juan Mayor Jose Victor Estrada for giving his consistent support to the MMDA.

He admitted that he and Estrada had disagreements over certain MMDA policies, especially after Joseph Estrada, the San Juan mayor's father, was ousted from the presidency during Edsa 2.

"I didn't try to win him to cross to my party, but I think I was able to win his commitment to support the MMDA," Abalos said of the young Estrada.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had tapped Abalos to replace embattled Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo, whose fight with a faction led by Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco left the poll body paralyzed.

ABALOS/ A26

DPAs vs Ativan

By Christian V. Esguerra and Norman Bordadora

WHEN you're with a foreigner and you happen to be in Makati City, don't get mad or surprised if policemen approach you.

Makati policemen are checking on foreigners to make sure they are not in the company of Ativan Gang members, according to Supt. Jose Ramon Salido, chief of the Makati Criminal Investigation Division.

He said police would also tap the services of 74 "deep-penetrating agents" (DPAs) deputized by

DPAs/ A27

Bare Eye: Can Gerry Peñalosa, now in California, do a Manny Pacquiao /A26

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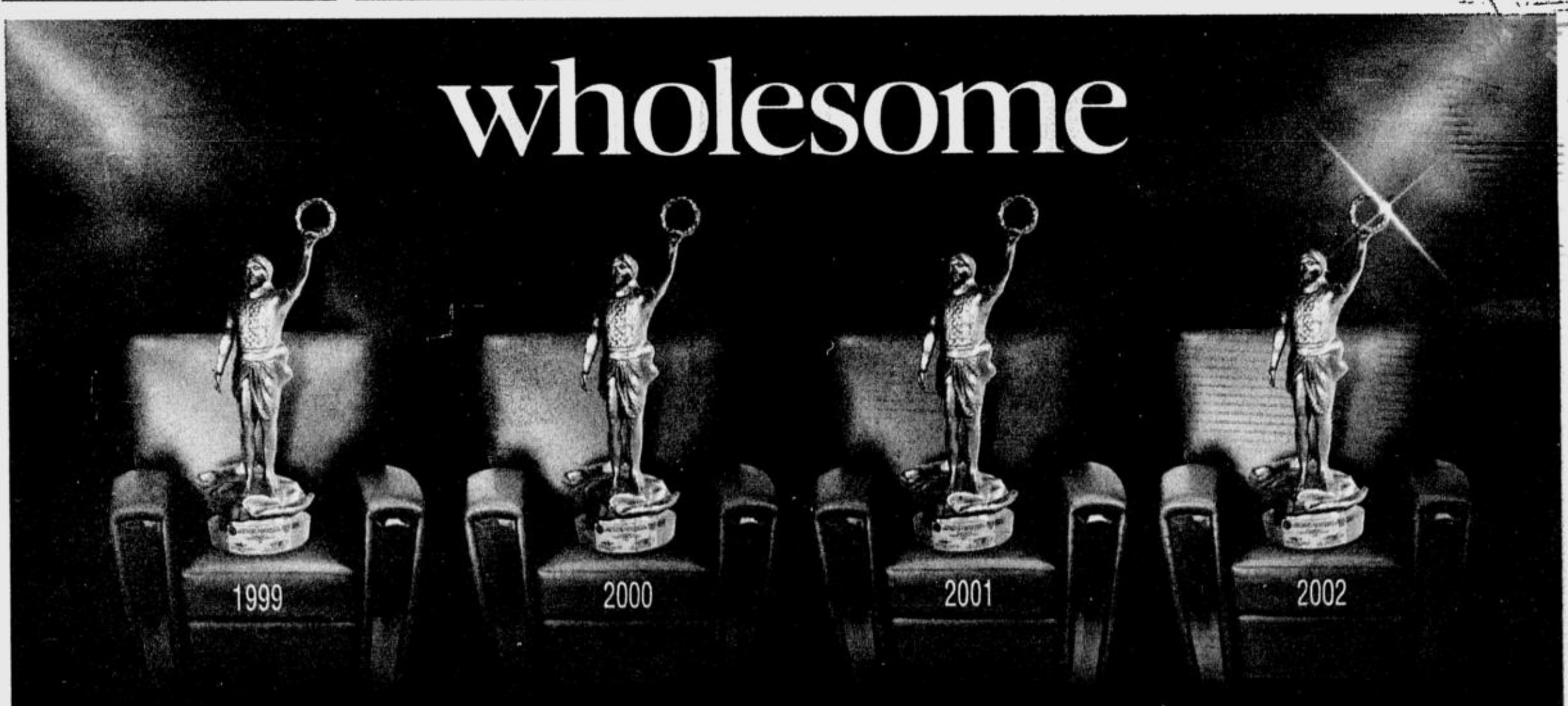

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Can Gerry Peñalosa, now in California, do a Manny Pacquiao?

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

GERRY Peñalosa, who had been likened by the great Joe Cantada to ring immortal Flash Elorde, could well win for the country another world boxing crown in November.

Gerry, a former world crown holder, packs the skills, power, and super credentials.

However, there was one sour feedback from California about the ex-WBC super flyweight champion.

The report was rather unkind and could truly bother the Pinoy boxing devotee.

Just pray this is not true. They said Gerry was no longer a hardworking ring craftsman, he no longer appeared as hungry as he used to, and he also did not seem too keen about working hard enough in the gym.

I'm not at liberty to divulge the names of the guys who made those allegations.

I can only assure you that these fellows are not Gerry haters.

They are, in fact, great fans of his.

***

Well, to repeat, Gerry is again right there at the doorstep of another world championship.

His camp had protested a foul-riddled loss to the current WBC 115-pound title-holder, Masamori Tokoyama, and Gerry has been allowed another crack at the title.

That championship has been scheduled for next autumn in Osaka, Japan against the sly, rangy champ who last year bloodied and befuddled Gerry with head butts as the American referee played it blind.

Anyway, in order to make sure Gerry doesn't fall into the same trap that cramped and crippled him in Yokohama, his handlers, headed by lawyer Rudy Salud, have sent him to the Wild Card Gym in California.

The main man in that training camp is none other than Freddie Roach, the sharp and unassuming boxing instructor who has reshaped Manny Pacquiao into a strong, sharp and dangerous first-class fighter.

Pacquiao's two most memorable victories, over Lehlo Ledwaba last year and Jorge Julio in the undercard of the Lennox Lewis-Mike Tyson championship in Memphis, were both masterpieces in demolition.

***

Pacquiao, indeed, did the fighting but, as if in a concerto, it was Roach who composed and conducted.

In fact, Pacquiao's handlers were one in acknowledging Roach's role in the reshaping of their fighter, the reigning IBF super bantamweight king.

Now, please remember that Gerry Peñalosa is attending the same school that had converted Pacquiao into a world sensation overnight.

The question to ask now is: Can Roach do to Peñalosa what he had done to Pacquiao?

Well, if it's still the same Gerry Peñalosa, a dedicated student of the Sweet Science, Roach is reshaping, he should be able to score a jackpot with another Pinoy fighter.

The Gerry we know is a dedicated boxing scholar who was always there, ready and willing, to take tips, learn new tricks that could help perfect his craft.

***

It's therefore quite puzzling how he could have changed, as alleged by concerned informants.

Well, if there had been any change in Gerry, the only culprit could be body chemistry.

If he indeed is no longer the studious, tireless, hardworking wonder worker that we all loved to watch inside the ring, it could only be a result of the shifting tides inside his body.

For the record, there indeed had been admirable artistry in the way the young Peñalosa had awed boxing fans here and abroad.

For the record, there was that period, not too long ago, when Pacquiao would always suffer in comparison to Peñalosa.

Remember how Pacquiao, in that dark, indecisive period of his flyweight years, squandered his gifts, went too heavy for his division, and was stripped of his WBC 112-pound crown on the eve of his title defense in Thailand?

The Pacquiao we have today is a brand new champ, disciplined, focused, hardworking.

He may not be as crafty, but if there's a quality that separates Pacquiao from Peñalosa, it's in the power area.

If Peñalosa, a noted combination puncher, could go about his chore like a surgeon armed with an array of cutting knives, Pacquiao uses only one main weapon.

He comes into the ring armed with an axe.

Gerry may be a virtuoso, but Pacquiao is a feared demolition man.

***

Actually, Freddie Roach will not even try to convert Gerry into a one-punch knockout puncher.

The American master can be expected to exploit Gerry's inborn gifts, like his cat-quick sharpness.

Anyway, to dispel the bothersome allegations about Gerry, Freddie Roach himself has offered the good news.

Roach swears Peñalosa still has what it takes to be a world champ.

That's according to Nick Giongco of Today, who talked to both Peñalosa and Roach on his way home from the coverage of the Lewis-Tyson title clash in Memphis.

"Gerry still has it, but he must work hard in the gym, he needs to sacrifice a lot, too," Roach told Giongco.

For his part, Peñalosa has humbly acknowledged that he has to make great sacrifices to regain the world crown.

Peñalosa said Roach is a great, incomparable teacher: "*Magaling talaga, ibang iba ang pagtuturo. Ang sparring dito sa gym niya talagang bugbugan, walang hinay hinay, walang alalay. Bahala ka talaga 'pag ginulpi ka.*"

This is the reason, Giongco reports, why Peñalosa has remained in tip-top form everyday.

Of course, we have all witnessed, as demonstrated by Manny Pacquiao, how staying in superb form alone can't be a sure ticket to a world crown.

Las Piñas: LGUs' model city

LAS PIÑAS City has become the favorite destination of local government units as part of their Lakbay-Aral program, according to Las Piñas Mayor Vergel Aguilar.

Las Piñas was named a model local government unit in cutting red tape and was chosen one of the most competitive metropolitan cities by the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Asian Institute of Management and the Department of Trade, said a statement from Aguilar's office.

It said government officials from Roxas City in Iloilo, Mabini and Malvar towns in Batangas and Butuan City visited Las Piñas City Hall to observe the city's computerized operations in processing business permits and licenses and other innovative approaches.

Aguilar said he is willing to share his expertise and "formula" in transforming Las Piñas City from a lowly municipality into one of the most awarded and highly urbanized cities in the country.

Abalos to Fernando . . .

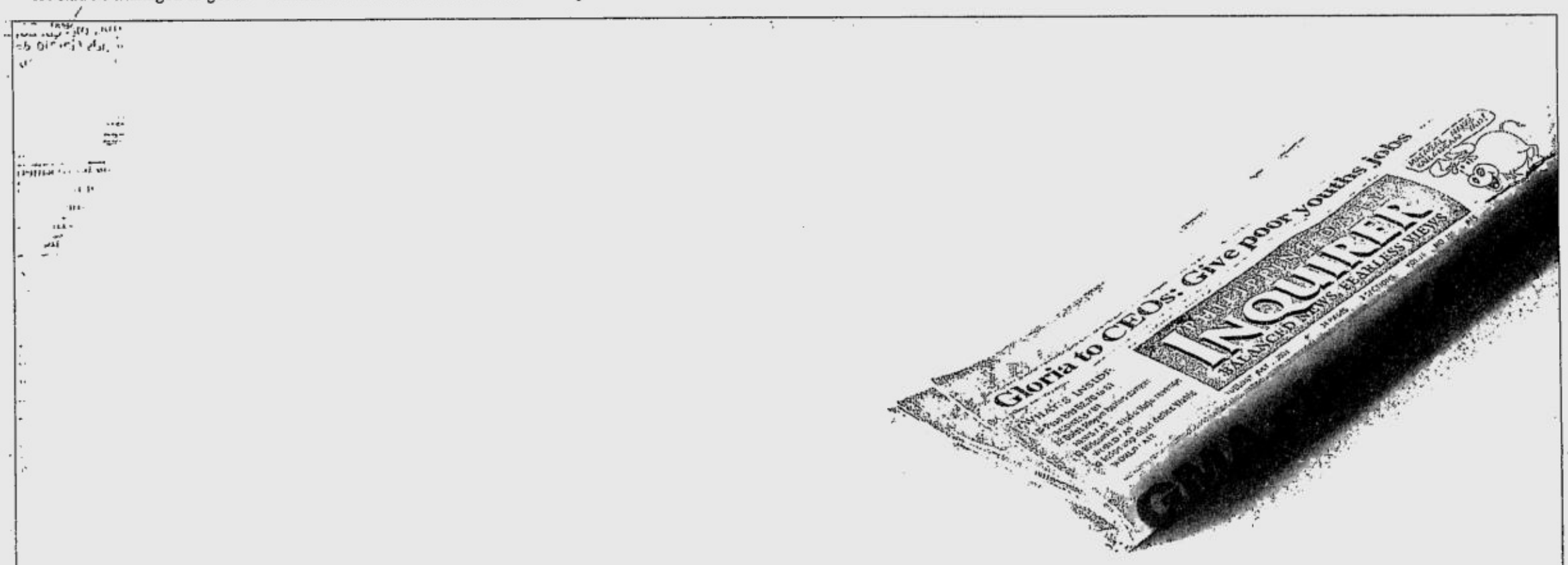
• Frompage 25

At the MMDA, Abalos considers as his "humble achievement" what he called the alleviation of the garbage problem in Metro Manila.

He said he managed to get local government units more involved in finding solutions to the garbage problem. Several material recovery facilities (MRFs) were constructed in key Metro Manila areas to handle trash at the local level, he said.

Abalos became MMDA chair at the height of the garbage crisis in January 2001 when mountains of trash grew in the streets of the metropolis.

ABALOS watches as Fernando is sworn in by President Macapagal. ERIK ARAZAS



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
News that makes a difference.

Another inmate is dead

By Philip C. Tubeza

ANOTHER inmate of the Manila City Jail died on Friday after complaining of chest pains, police said.

Ricardo B. Lubat, 32, of Dos Castillas Street, Sampaloc, Manila, died at the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center after suffering from breathing difficulties, said Detective Ernesto Jose Jr. of the Western Police District homicide section.

Initial investigation showed that Lubat had a heart attack, police said.

Jail officers brought Lubat to the hospital about 6 p.m. on Wednesday after he complained of having difficulty in breathing, police said. He died at 6:35 a.m. on Friday.

Lubat was first brought to the jail infirmary but his condition worsened, police said.

Police said there was no sign of external injury on Lubat's body, except for blood that oozed out of his nose.

Sampaloc policemen arrested Lubat on Dec. 7, 2001 after he was accused of attempted rape and physical injury, jail records showed.

He was transferred to the city jail on Jan. 8 after his case was filed with the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 38.

Jail officials came under fire last month after several inmates died because of different ailments. The unsanitary conditions and cramped space in the jail were blamed for the deaths.

Manila City Jail officials promised to do their best to prevent more deaths despite the worsening conditions in the prison complex.

WPD cops: Who's trigger-happy?

By Philip C. Tubeza

"HOW can we be trigger-happy when we are issued only two magazines (of bullets) for lifetime use?"

This was the reaction of the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association Inc. spokesperson to reports that Western Police District policemen are "trigger-happy and prone to violence."

A study conducted by the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila had revealed that many Manila policemen are prone to violence, aside from having other deficiencies like not knowing Manila's geography and ordinances, according to university officials.

SPO1 Antonio Emmanuel, the MFBAI spokesperson, said Manila lawmen could not be "trigger-happy" since the ammunition they are given is "not even enough."

Emmanuel explained that when a policeman receives his 9 mm service firearm, he also receives two magazines.

"That's it," he said. "We no longer get more bullets. We have to find more bullets on our own."

He said bullets cost P25 each. A magazine costs P1,000, he said.

"That's why we no longer fire warning shots because we're afraid that the bullet we fire in the air might hit somebody when it comes down," Emmanuel said. "So we shout 'Pulis! Pulis!' instead.

"And there are so many people investigating us," he added. "IAS (Internal Affairs Service), GAS (General Assignment Section), and the Napolcom (National Police Commission). The policeman is afraid of getting charged."

The WPD director, Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr., declined to comment on the PLM report, saying he had not seen the questionnaire used in the study, which was part of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's Services Induction and Reorientation (SIR) program.

"Let us see what questions were asked," Pasinos said. "I am not an expert in (psychology).

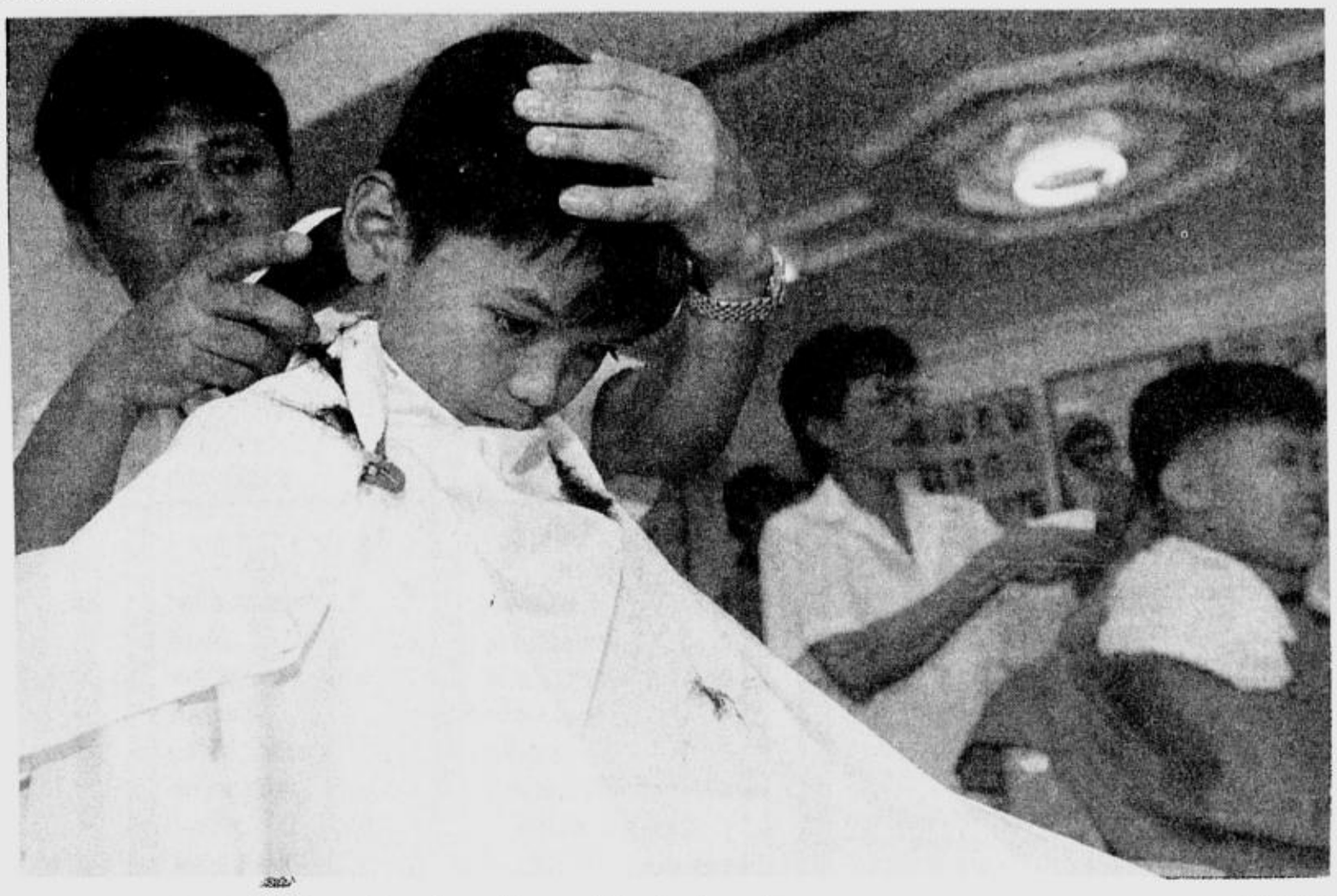
"I've been here (as WPD chief) for more than a year and I don't remember encountering an organic Manila policeman doing that (being trigger-happy)," he said. "Unlike before, we no longer have gunfights between policemen and soldiers."

Atienza initiated SIR after he visited the Ermita district and several new policemen did not recognize him.

SIR is a five-day orientation course for augmentation and newly assigned lawmen in Manila. It informs them of Manila's culture, places, personalities, laws and programs.

Although it is primarily for new policemen, older lawmen will also eventually take the course.

According to the PLM findings, 171 of the 213 policemen who took SIR failed the course. Pasinos said some of those who failed were older lawmen organic to the WPD.



MAKING THE CUT, barbers have a busy day on the eve of the school opening. ERIK ARAZAS

'Salvage' survivor slain

By Jerome Aning and Philip C. Tubeza

ERICKSON Castillo, a self-confessed snatcher who made headlines three years ago after claiming to have survived from being "salvaged" or summarily executed by his alleged policemen protectors, is dead.

The Western Police District confirmed that Castillo was the victim of a shooting incident in Area B, Gate 48, Parola Compound in Tondo, Manila last Thursday.

Castillo's body was riddled with more than 10 bullets, police said. Unidentified men shot him about 10:30 Thursday while he was walking near Gate 48, police said.

Castillo died on the spot, police said. His body has reportedly claimed by relatives.

Investigators described Castillo as between 20 and 25 years old, five-foot-four to five-foot-six, of medium build, and with no known address. He was wearing a red shirt and shorts when he was shot, police said.

Homicide investigators SPO4 William Gondranios and SPO1 Virgo Villareal said the motive for the shooting and the identities of the gunmen have yet to be determined.

Policemen were checking reports that Castillo had shot someone in Parola last February.

Castillo had said that on Feb. 28, 1999, he and his friends Gerald de la Cruz and Roserio Roxas were abducted and shot by Station 2's Insp. Lawrence Cajipe, SPO2 Eugene Ilento, SPO1 Valentino Guevarra, PO1 Dionisio Dimasana and PO1 Lester del Alcazar.

Roxas and De la Cruz were killed but Castillo survived after he played dead. The three young men were later dumped in a ravine in Tagaytay City in Cavite province.

But residents found Castillo. He later turned up in Manila and filed charges against the policemen who he said shot him and his two companions.

The case caused a stir in the government, and murder and frustrated murder charges were filed against Inspector Cajipe and his companions.

The case, however, was dismissed on May 21, 2001 after the withdrawal of several vital witnesses and an off-the-court settlement.

Castillo's death was reported to the WPD's homicide section by Cajipe's cousin, PO1 Ferdinand Cajipe, also a member of Station 2.

Policemen recalled that on Feb. 27 three years ago, Castillo, De la Cruz and Roxas were on board a pedicab when the five policemen arrested them on C. M. Recto in Divisoria and brought them to the police precinct in Moriones, Tondo.

The next day, the bodies of De Guzman and Roxas were found in a remote barangay in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. They had been shot in the head and the back.

Investigators said Ilento pretended to be Roxas' relative and tried to retrieve Roxas' body from a funeral parlor in Sta. Rosa.

When he resurfaced, Castillo confessed that he was a snatcher and that the policemen became angry when he and his companions failed to turn over to them their earnings from snatchings.

He said the policemen shot the three of them because they were afraid the snatchers would squeal on the lawmen.

Man killed over P20

By Jerome Aning

FOR REFUSING to pay a P20-debt to a vendor, a young man was stabbed dead by his drinking buddy in Intramuros, Manila before dawn on Saturday, police said.

Jonathan Colegado, 21, a native of Surigao del Norte and resident of Intramuros, was stabbed in the chest and died at the Ospital ng Maynila, police said.

Colegado and the suspect, identified only as "Waray," were drinking at Maestranza Compound in Intramuros when, about 12:30 a.m., a food vendor identified only as *Aling* Baby arrived to collect the P20 Colegado supposedly owed her, said PO3 Rodel Lingcong.

When Colegado ignored the vendor, Waray told him to pay up, police said. The two men quarreled but were pacified, police said.

Electrocuted

A MAN was electrocuted yesterday when he accidentally touched a live wire after washing his hands in Malabon City, according to police.

Jerry de la Cruz, 35, of Evergreen Village, Antipolo City, died while being brought to the hospital.

Police said De la Cruz had gone to Malabon to visit his relative Reynaldo Lucis, the chief engineer in a shipyard in the Malabon-Navotas River.

Lucis told police they had just finished eating when the accident happened.

When he touched the live wire, De la Cruz had just washed his hands and his feet were also wet since the high tide in the Malabon-Navotas River caused some flooding in the area, police said.

Agnes E. Donato

Police, protesters and LRT get ready

By Jerome Aning and Nelson F. Flores

DISCONTENT over tuition increases and other education problems will greet the opening of more schools today when militant students and teachers launch a national day of protest in Manila and Quezon City.

The National Union of Students of the Philippines and the Alliance of Concerned Teachers claimed that 5,000 of their members, mostly from Manila's University Belt, will gather at 2 p.m. today on Morayta Street. They will then march on to the Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge to "hold classes on the streets" to express their sentiments.

The Movement for the Advancement of Student Democracy will hold a sit-in protest against tuition increase on the Technological Institute of the Philippines campus on Aurora Boulevard in Quezon City at 11 a.m. today.

Aside from tuition increase, the other issues cited by the students and teachers are the implementation of the restructured basic curriculum, classroom shortage, obsolete school facilities, low salary for teachers, inadequate funding for education, campus repression and the continuing compulsory enrollment in the ROTC.

"If these are not remedied soon by the government, we will be having a chaotic school year with disastrous implications on the quality of our education," NUSP president Raymund Palatino said.

In eastern Metro Manila, about 800 policemen from the Eastern Police District Office will be deployed to secure students during the resumption of classes today.

The EPD director, Chief Supt. Rolando Sacramento, said the policemen would be deployed in strategic areas in the cities of Mandaluyong, Pasig and Marikina, and the town of San Juan.

Petty criminals are usually very active during the regular opening of classes, Sacramento noted.

Earlier, National Capital Region Police Office Director Edgardo Aglipay ordered the deployment of more than 6,000 lawmen and 1,000 police recruits all over Metro Manila, especially near schools and universities.

A number of colleges and universities have begun holding classes, but a substantial number of elementary and secondary schools will start their classes only today.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the PNP Traffic Management Group will also deploy additional traffic enforcers to ensure the smooth flow of traffic to and from the different schools in Metro Manila.

Newly appointed MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said traffic enforcers have been ordered to strictly enforce traffic laws.

The Light Rail Transit (LRT) has also beefed up security, deployed additional personnel and maximized train operations to cope with the influx of students today, according to LRT Authority (LRTA) Administrator Teddy Cruz Jr.

He said additional tellers and public relations staff will be deployed in highly populated stations like Monumento, Baclaran, Central, Buendia and Pedro Gil to facilitate the sale of cards and to assist passengers especially during peak hours.

"We will be fielding a maximum number of trains during the peak hours in the morning, late afternoon and early evening to avoid congestion," Cruz said.

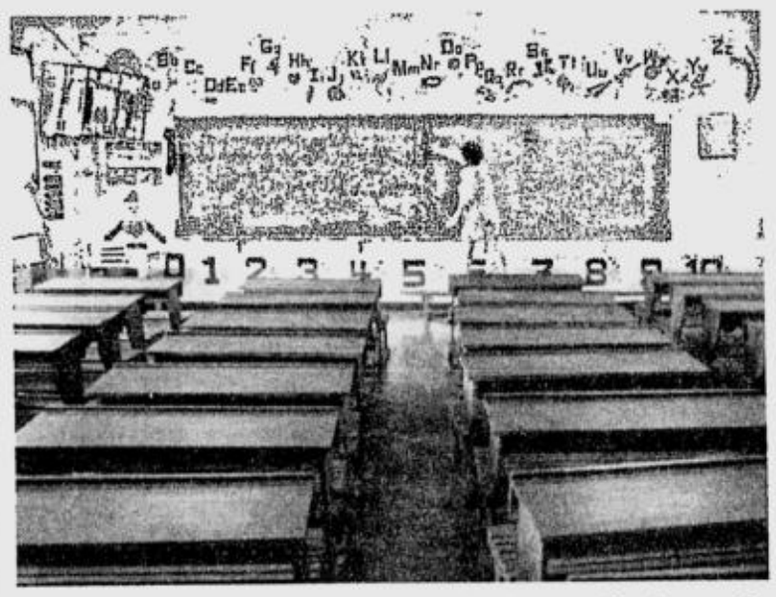
As part of enhanced security measures, bomb-sniffing dogs will check on passengers, he said. "It is in crowded places that criminal elements love to work," he said.

Engineer Rodrigo Bulario, officer in charge of the LRT Operations and Engineering Department, said that during the start of classes, passenger volume normally increases by 30 percent.

He said 27 trains will operate during peak hours. The number will be reduced during off-peak hours, or from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., he said

The trains carry an average of 31,500 passengers per hour during peak hours, he said.

LRT trains start running at 5 a.m. Last trip is 9:30 p.m. in the Monumento station and 9 p.m. in the Baclaran station.



CLEAN SLATE in an elementary school in Quezon City is one of the last-minute preparations for today. ROMY HOMILLADA

DPAs vs Ativan

From page A25

the Makati Drug Enforcement Unit last April to supply intelligence information about the Ativan Gang.

The Ativan group, so called for using the sleep-inducing drug Ativan to knock out their victims before robbing them, is said to be headed by a man using the alias Robert Sambili.

The Ativan Gang is believed to have victimized Korean diplomat Chung Young-ho, 47, in Makati, who was found dead the day after he disappeared early this month. The gang is also suspected to have robbed several other foreigners, including a Frenchman, in the weeks following the diplomat's death.

The gang is also believed to have victimized a Japanese, an Israeli and a New Zealander.

In a travel advisory posted on its web site, the French Embassy in Manila advised French visitors in the metropolis to be wary of friendly strangers offering drinks and a good time.

"It is advised that (French citizens) should not accept drinks from strangers...and to be aware when in Metro Manila," said the advisory, written in French for French tourists and business people.

Superintendent Salido said: "If you're in the company of a foreigner, expect a police officer to approach you and ask questions about your relations with your companion. Please don't take it against the officer. He's just doing his job."

Last week, Philippine Ambassador to South Korea Juanito Jarasa reported to the Department of Foreign Affairs that "South Korean foreign minister Choi Sung Hong has asked the Philippine government to improve the security of Koreans in the country."

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon had said that Chung's death was a shame and a major blow to Philippine tourism.

The Philippine National Police has put up a reward of P200,000 for the capture of each of the five suspected members of the Ativan Gang suspected of preying on foreigners, including Chung.

MOST OUTSTANDING PAPER
Donald Lim, manager of the Philippine Daily Inquirer classified advertising and marketing services, accepts from Sen. Robert Barbers the Most Outstanding Newspaper Award for PDI during the Consumers Quality Awards in Camp Aguinaldo. At right is Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes. ROMY HOMILLADA

Suicide

A YOUNG mother shot herself to death yesterday morning in Quezon City, police said.

Mary Jane Bemjamin, 30, of Payatas, Quezon City, died from a gunshot wound in the head, police said.

Her 10-year-old daughter found Bemjamin dead at 9:30 a.m., police said. The woman's live-in partner was reportedly on his way back from Pangasinan when the shooting happened.

Investigation showed that Bemjamin's older daughter left the house at 8:20 a.m. to go to church.

The daughter returned at 9:30 a.m. and found her mother lying bloodied in her bed, with a .38 revolver in her hand, police said. ***Agnes E. Donato***

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

For screening times, call 729-7777.
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC TOWN CENTER
1 I THINK I'M IN LOVE	1 MAGKAPATID	1 MURDER BY NUMBERS	MURDER BY NUMBERS 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	A WALK TO REMEMBER
2 MAGKAPATID	2 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS	2 A WALK TO REMEMBER	A WALK TO REMEMBER 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20	2 MAGKAPATID
3 SUPER B	MURDER BY NUMBERS 3 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	3 MAGKAPATID	3 PANIC ROOM 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00	3 MURDER BY NUMBERS
4 DISKARTE	4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE		4 MAGKAPATID 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	4 SUPER B
	5 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2		5 DRAGONFLY 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00	5 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
	6 A WALK TO REMEMBER	MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE 9:00 PM June 21, 22, 28 & 29		
	7 RESIDENT EVIL			

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

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Filinvest

Festival Cinema
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDS)	DISKARTE
2 (SDDS)	MAMASAN
3 (DTS)	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 GOLD (DTS)	STAR WARS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	A WALK TO REMEMBER
6 GOLD (SDDS)	DRAGONFLY
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	RESIDENT EVIL
8	SUPER B
9	MAGKAPATID
10	MAGKAPATID

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3 (DTS)	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana Cinema
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE

stармall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SUPER B
5	MAGKAPATID

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	MAMASAN
3	DISKARTE
4	MAGKAPATID
5	SUPER B
6	UTANG NI TATANG
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1 JUNE 18 & 19 "SUM OF ALL FEARS"

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	MAGKAPATID
2	STAR WARS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	SUPER B
2	MAGKAPATID
3	

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	SUPER B
A	MAGKAPATID

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	SUPER B
3	MAGKAPATID
4	UTANG NI TATANG

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	DISKARTE
2	
3	
4	DISKARTE
5	MAMASAN
6	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
7 (DTS)	SUPER B
8 (SDDS)	MAGKAPATID
9 (DOLBY)	UTANG NI TATANG

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	DISKARTE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 (SDDS)	SUPER B
5	DISKARTE
6 (DOLBY)	MAGKAPATID
7 (DTS)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
8	CASS & CARY
9	UTANG NI TATANG

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	
2	
3	
4	SUPER B
5 (SDDS)	MAGKAPATID
6	DISKARTE
7 (DOLBY)	MAMASAN
8	I THINK I'M IN LOVE

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3 (DTS)	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B
5 (SDDS)	MAGKAPATID

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	MAGKAPATID

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	DISKARTE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	MAMASAN
Lords	MAGKAPATID
Jennet	UTANG NI TATANG

Mandaluyong
MARKETPLACE tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	DISKARTE
2	MAGKAPATID
3	SUPER B

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	MAGKAPATID
5	SUPER B

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	UTANG NI TATANG
2	DISKARTE

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	DISKARTE
3 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	DISKARTE
2 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID
3 (DOLBY)	SUPER B
4	I THINK I'M IN LOVE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2 (DOLBY)	MAGKAPATID
3 (DTS)	DISKARTE
4	SUPER B

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	MAGKAPATID
3	PANIC ROOM
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	SUPER B
3 (DOLBY)	PANIC ROOM
4 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 (DTS)	UTANG NI TATANG

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	DISKARTE
2	MAGKAPATID
3 (DTS)	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B
5	DEATH TO SMOOCHY

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	MAGKAPATID
2	DISKARTE
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	MAGKAPATID
2	DISKARTE
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	JIHAD WARRIOR
2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3	LIGAYA PANTASYA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	
2	
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	DISKARTE
2 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	CLOSED

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	MAGKAPATID
3	DISKARTE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	CASS & CARY
3	MAGKAPATID
4	DISKARTE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	SUPER B
3 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID
4	DISKARTE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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SM CINEMA

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SM CITY BACOOR
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1	RESIDENT EVIL
2	MAGKAPATID
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	SUPER B
5	DISKARTE
6	MAGKAPATID
7	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
8	MAMASAN

SM CENTERPOINT
7140522 -7161416

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5	MAGKAPATID
6	CASS & CARY
7	MAGKAPATID
8	RESIDENT EVIL
9	SUPER B
10	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350740

1	MAMASAN
2	RESIDENT EVIL
3	CASS & CARY
4	MAGKAPATID
5	DISKARTE
6	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
7	A WALK TO REMEMBER
8	SUPER B
9	MAGKAPATID
10	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
11	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
12	DRAGONFLY

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	MAGKAPATID
5	SUPER B
6	MAGKAPATID
7	UTANG NI TATANG
8	MAMASAN
9	MAGKAPATID
10	SUPER B
11	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
12	DISKARTE

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	MURDER BY NUMBERS
2	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
3	UTANG NI TATANG
4	A WALK TO REMEMBER
5	DRAGONFLY
6	RESIDENT EVIL
7	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
8	SUPER B
9	MAGKAPATID
10	MAGKAPATID
11	DISKARTE
12	MAMASAN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	DISKARTE
2	MAGKAPATID
3	MAMASAN
4	SUPER B
5	MAGKAPATID
6	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
7	RESIDENT EVIL
8	A WALK TO REMEMBER
9	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM SOUTHMALL
6060858

1	MAGKAPATID
2	MAMASAN
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	DISKARTE
5	CASS & CARY
6	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
7	SUPER B
8	RESIDENT EVIL
9	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
10	MAGKAPATID

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	JIHAD WARRIOR
2	PANIC ROOM
3	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5	CASS & CARY
6	LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .
7	SUPER B
8	MAGKAPATID

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	JIHAD WARRIOR
2	CLOSED
3	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4	SUPER B
5	I THINK I'M LOVE
6	MAGKAPATID
7	CLOSED
8	PANIC ROOM

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	MAGKAPATID
2	RESIDENT EVIL
3	MAMASAN
4	SUPER B
5	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
6	DISKARTE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	SUPER B
2	MAGKAPATID
3	DISKARTE
4	I THINK I'M IN LOVE

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	DISKARTE
2	MAGKAPATID
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	PANIC ROOM
2	MAGKAPATID
3	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
4	SUPER B
5	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
6	JIHAD WARRIOR

SM BICUTAN

1	
2	SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
3	
4	

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1	
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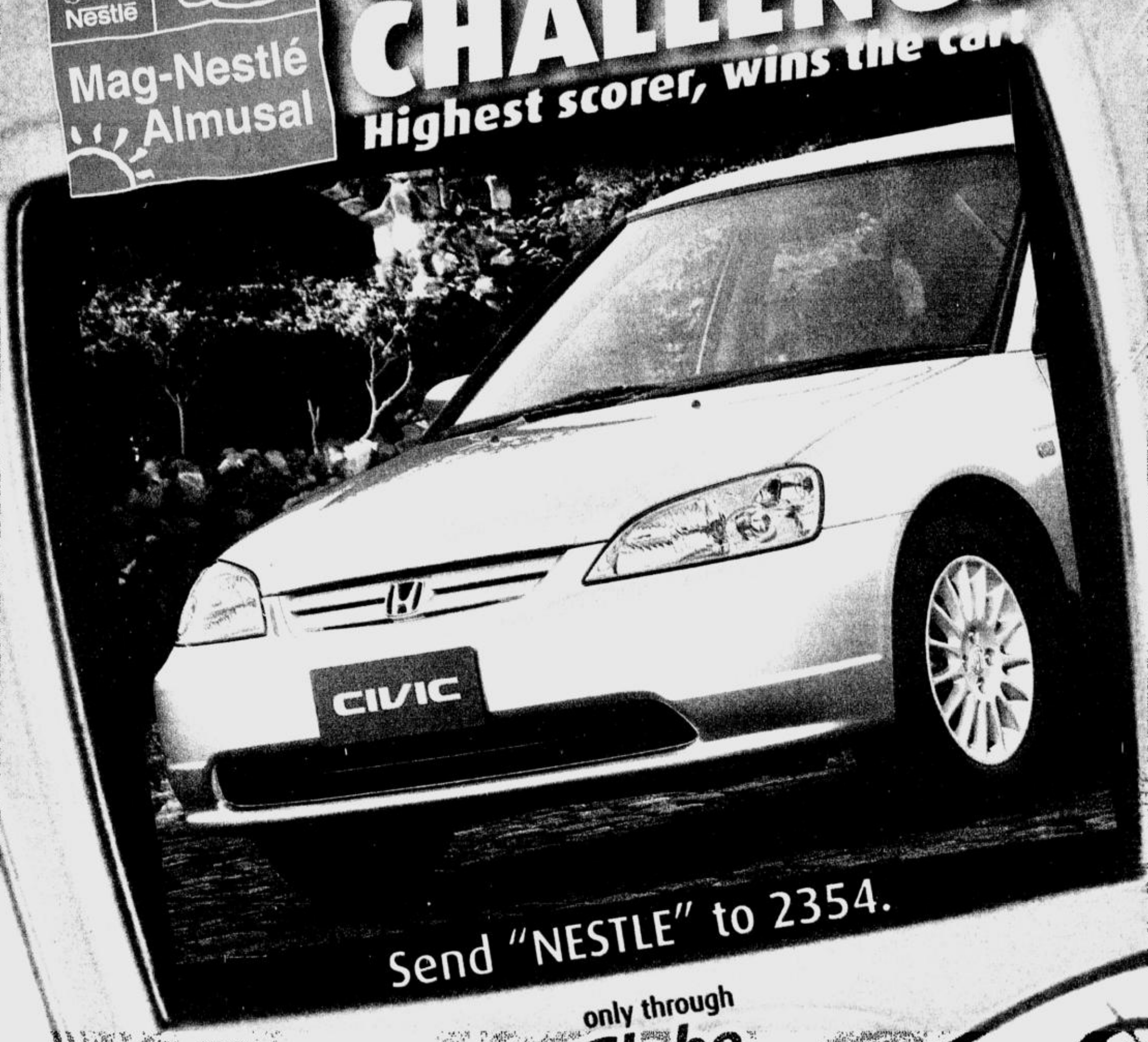

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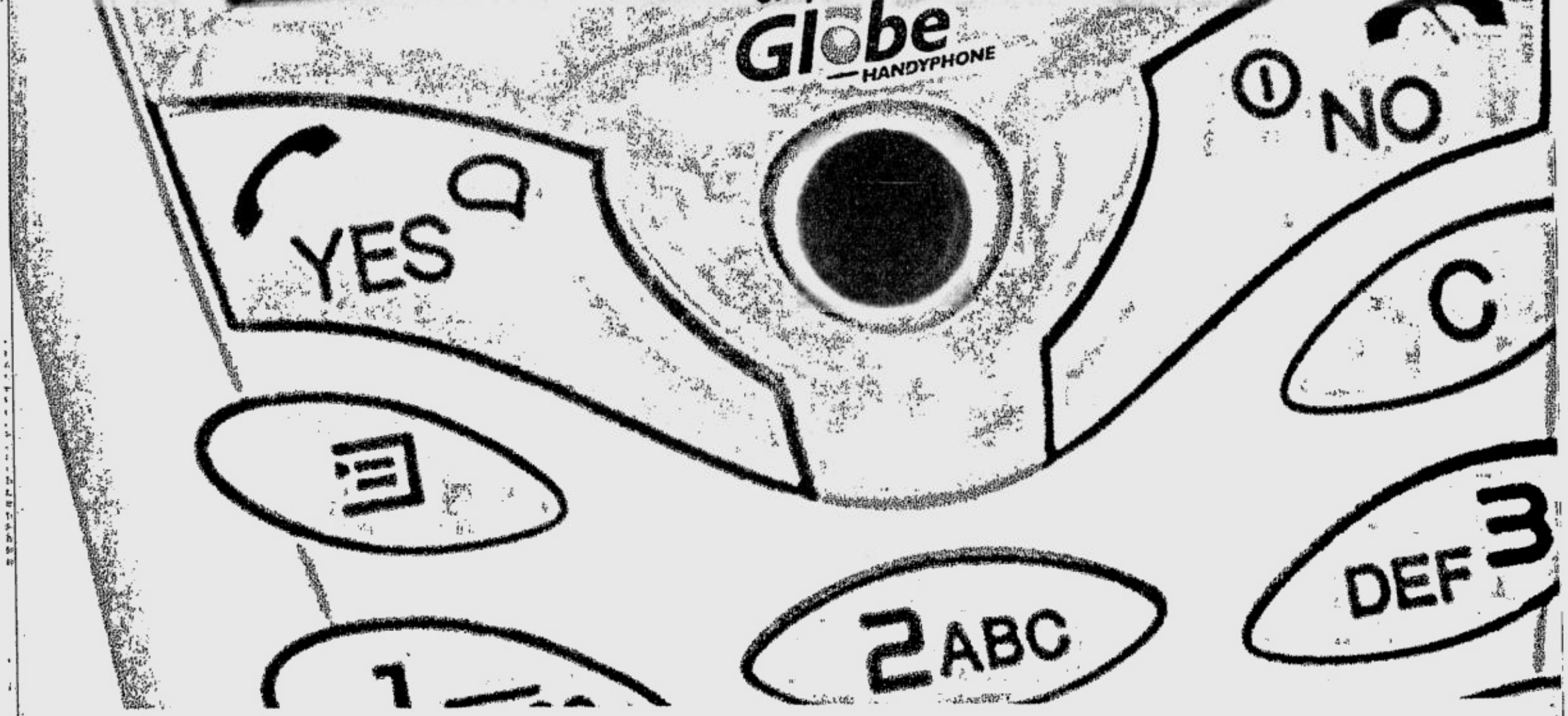

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Regine, Lani to drown out each other's voice in one show

BERNARDO

REGINE Velasquez and **Lani Misalucha** on the same stage could be a dream concert for people who idolize the two divas.

Later this year, the dream of music fans will happen in a major concert venue and will be produced by **Ronnie Henares'** Primeline Inc.

Ronnie used to manage Regine and is now Lani's manager. Regine and Ronnie parted ways amicably, so they can easily work together again.

My source said Regine said yes when Primeline first discussed the back-to-back show with her. Lani, too, didn't think twice about sharing the stage with Regine.

The concert might require a stratospheric production budget. It will also need a carefully chosen repertoire for the power belters, as well as a good musical director.

Expect a showdown when the two power divas perform together. The concert is definitely a must-see musical.

Mother Lily's pleased

REGAL Films matriarch **Lily Monteverde** must be grinning these days. Her latest production, "I Think I'm in Love," is making a strong showing at the box-office in the ongoing Manila Film Festival.

The success is attributed mainly to the GP (general patronage) rating of the **Joyce Jimenez-Piolo Pascual** starrer.

The feel-good movie megged by **Maryo J. de los Reyes** marks the first team-up of Joyce and Piolo.

"He is the hottest young actor today," the lady producer says of Piolo. "I am very pleased with the outcome of the film."

From stage to TV

SHOW BIZ was where **Maria Carmela Brosas—"Kakai"** or "K" for short—wanted to be even when she was a child growing up in her native Samar. She joined dance and declamation contests in school to show her artistic talent.

When she came to Manila, she auditioned with PETA and became a theater artist. At 17, she was a sing-along master at the now-defunct Malate club Nikolai.

But bigger things awaited K. In 2000, she performed with a band which toured Indonesia, Thailand and Korea. When she returned to Manila, she was invited to join the singing-comedy group Gladys and the Boxers, managed by **Boy Abunda's** Backroom Inc.

"I had second thoughts about

BROSAS

joining Gladys," K discloses. "I was used to doing my own thing. But I gave it a try. I blended well with them and we discovered our chemistry onstage."

When K came in, the group added her name and called itself Gladys and the Boxers with K. The group has become one of the most sought-after performers in the live entertainment scene. They won the 2001 Aliw Award for Best Performance in Bars, Restaurants and Lounges.

An executive of Tape, the outfit that produces the GMA 7 noontime fare, "Eat Bulaga," spotted K and offered her a slot in the show.

"It was a dream come true for me to be on TV, too," K shares.

K, like Gladys Guevarra, is slowly inching her way into a flourishing TV career. K plays the role of the *mayordoma* Manang Flor in the GMA 7 telenovela, "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin."

Then came the chance to work with action king **Rudy Fernandez** and sexy actress **Rosanna Roces** in the new GMA 7 sitcom, "Daboy and Da Girl." As the wacky Ming Ming, K earned positive feedback from viewers.

Is she thinking of leaving Gladys and the Boxers with K soon?

"Definitely not," K blurts out. "Even if the time comes that they don't need me anymore in the group, I will still insist on performing with them. That's how much I love the group. I got all these breaks because of being part of the group."

Gladys and the Boxers with K perform at Kampo West on Wednesdays and Saturdays, Music Warehouse in Legarda and Meycauayan, Bulacan on Fridays, Ratsky's Malate on Thursdays and Soundstage in Cainta on Tuesdays.

Bernie's feat

ACTOR-COMEDIAN **Bernardo Bernardo** shared with this writer his most recent feat—entertaining a crowd of thousands with his signature brand of stand-up comedy and novelty songs at the Civic Center Plaza in San Francisco, California.

He hosted a two-day event for the Fiesta Filipina Independence Day celebration last June 8 and 9. The featured performers were **Christopher de Leon, Roselle Nava, Jo Ann Lorenzana, Jo Awayan, Lailani Navarro, Rica Peralejo** and **Leonard Obal.**

Bernie had a reunion with three of his fellow graduates from the University of Sto. Tomas. **Dorenda Sumatra, Aurora Patricio Paredes** and **Patricia Velasquez Kegley** were delighted to see their former Varsitarian editor in chief. The three women are now successful businesswomen in the US. They are all proud of Bernie's success.

Recently, Bernie was chosen as one of 25 outstanding alumni of UST, with novelist **F. Sionil Jose** and the late playwright and actor **Rolando Tinio.**

Bernie is also a theater artist and a serious actor. He won a best actor trophy for his turn in the critically acclaimed **Ishmael Bernal** film, "Manila by Night."

Last month, he received a special Urian award for the same Regal Films classic which was chosen one of the 10 best Filipino films of the last 25 years.

Among Filipino communities abroad who have access to The Filipino Channel, which beams ABS-CBN programs on satellite, Bernie is known as the gender-bender nemesis of **Dolphy** in the long-running sitcom, "Home Along da Riles."

In theater, he has made memorable portrayals like Zaza in "La Cage Aux Folles" and King Mongkut for "The King and I," both for Repertory Philippines; and Padre Damaso in "Noli Me Tangere" and Simoun in "El Filibusterismo" for Tanghalang Pilipino.

Before going to the US for the Independence Day concerts, Bernie landed a major role in a Japanese film shot entirely in the Philippines. The movie, titled "Chateau de Roses," combines the effects of animé and "Moulin Rouge."

Bernie plays Maria, a 91-year-old blind and crippled transvestite who owns a mansion run by a gay Mafia.

Skycable subscribers knocked out by blocking of Lewis-Tyson match

BAGUIO CITY— Skycable Television subscribers in this northern mountain city protested the network's decision to block the live coverage of last Sunday's world heavyweight boxing match between defending champion Lennox Lewis and challenger Mike Tyson.

The subscribers were more peeved when they learned that a local rival cable network, Viacomm CATV, was able to air the live feed of the match from Memphis, Tennessee.

Viewers here who watched the "Fight of the Century" on the National Broadcasting Network (NBN), the government station that beamed the fight to this city, complained of the way the fight was relayed.

Weeks before the match, Skycable repeatedly plugged the much awaited championship. When fight time came, however, the Japanese channel was blocked, forcing subscribers to switch to NBN which showed a "very much delayed" telecast.

Viacomm subscribers were luckier because its Wowow station was not blocked, giving the subscribers a ringside view as Lewis demolished Tyson.

Skycable Baguio manager Raul Bandonill said he received a "cease and desist" order from the carrier of the boxing match.

"We were instructed not to allow the showing of the fight on Wowow," he said, adding that the order was for all Skycable stations nationwide.

But Viacomm news director Dhobbie de Guzman said his station did not receive any order to block the fight.

Lawyer Reynaldo Agranzamendez, former president of the Baguio-Benguet chapter of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, said the blocking was illegal. ***Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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KELAN KA BA HULING TUMAWA, KASAMA ANG BUONG PAMILYA?
PWES 'ETO NA SI SUPER-B
HATID AY ALIW AT SAYA
SA MANILA FILM FIESTA!
MARVIN AGUSTIN
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Nagiiyakan, Nagtatawanan, Nagmamahalan.
SHARON CUNETA JUDY ANN SANTOS
MAGKAPATID
DIRECTED BY JOEL LAMANGAN
FUJIFILM
SHOWING NA NATIONWIDE!

RIVERMAYA. To perform choice cuts from their latest musical outing, "Tuloy ang Ligaya," at Robinson's malls.

Rivermaya promotes new album at the malls

RIVERMAYA, one of the most imaginative artists in the local entertainment scene, is expected to draw crowds at Robinson's Place Imus on Friday, June 21, as the group promotes their latest album under Viva Records, "Tuloy ang Ligaya," in a live concert at the mall's fountain area.

Known for their own brand of music, Rivermaya will perform their carrier single, "Umaaraw, Umuulan," a soaring melody with lyrics that are both world-weary yet full of hope.

The band will also perform other choice cuts from their latest album.

After the Imus, Cavite gig, Rivermaya will perform at Robinson's Place Novaliches on July 28 and Robinson's Metro East on July 30.

How to handle 'breaking news' on TV

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE DAY that the military attempted to rescue the **Burnhams** and **Ediborah Yap** from the Abu Sayyaf, our TV sets happened to be tuned to an international cable channel when the first report on the breaking story was flashed.

Right away, we switched to the local free channels to see if they already had the information, but they did not. It took minutes and minutes before they started reporting on the incident. Why, we wondered, had they been beaten to the punch again by a cable channel reporting from abroad? After all, the story was happening *here* . . .

Despite the foreign channel's early lead, all of the channels we surveyed had a very difficult time getting more details about the rescue attempt and the continuing firefight thereafter. This was due to the news blackout that the military had imposed, to make sure that its succeeding moves would not be inadvertently telegraphed by the media to the enemy.

When the details started trickling in, some of them were wrong. For instance, an early report said that seven soldiers had died. Only much later was a correction made: the seven soldiers had only been injured. Sadly, one channel took hours before making the correction. Why did it take that long for the channel to get things right in this regard?

A major problem was many channels' decision to give the story full play, despite the lack of details to report. This left "breaking news" reporters with little to do but keep repeating the precious few facts they knew, to ask military officers questions that they couldn't answer, and to just keep speculating away.

After minutes and even hours of this repetitive and scantly informed coverage, TV news people realized that it wasn't working, and the channels' on-camera news talents were being left with egg on their faces.

We understood why the channels' news managers had decided to give the story full play—after all, it was a major development. But, when the facts and details were not forthcoming, they should have gone back to regular programming, with periodic news updates whenever there was a new development or something significant to report. This way, the on-camera news talents could have been spared all that repetitive gabbing and speculating.

It would be good if our TV news people would learn from this recent experience and come up with more reliable rules and systems to help TV personnel react more astutely to breaking news.

After the initial, terse report, what comes next? As experience sadly shows, mere paraphrases of skimpy material won't keep viewers glued to the TV screen for long. So, why keep repeating the obvious just to stay on the air with the hot item?

After exhausting the possibilities of the paltry information on hand, perhaps it would be more prudent to resume telecasting regular shows, while speedily gathering new information to more productively share with viewers at the most opportune time.

Encore for 'Illusione'

BAHAGHARI Productions brings back the music and magic of "Illusione" at the newly-opened Star Theater at the CCP Complex, starting on Aug. 17. The show will also have performances in Davao City on Aug. 2, 3 and 4; in Cebu City on Aug. 9 and 10, and in Pampanga on Sept. 6 and 7. Call 687-0990.

The hit show features a Black Divas Medley with **James Cooper** as **Diana Ross**; a hilarious "Swan Lake" ballet with **Douglas Nierras** as Odette; a Broadway suite, and other show-stopping numbers.

Bahaghari president **Margie Moran Floirendo** shares, "We've retained the original concept of the show, but we've added more numbers and characters to make it an even more scintillating viewing experience at our new performance venue."

FLOIRENDO. To present "Illusione" to a new performance venue.

Feedback

FROM **Eliseo D. Ripol** of Pasay City: "The new crop of movie stars is made up of boys and girls who are so difficult to tell apart. They are usually *mestizos* who look and talk like clones of **Aga Muhlach** on the male side and **Donita Rose** on the distaff side.

"Instead of trying to look alike, they should try to look different, so that they will stand out. Aside from *mestizo* talents, let's have more dark or Asian-looking newcomers, to give variety and spice to the TV shows and movies we see."

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	DISKARTE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MAGKAPATID
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SUPER B
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	MAMASAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	A WALK TO REMEMBER
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	MAGKAPATID
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	DISKARTE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR / SAKIM NA PAG IBIG
ODEON	DISKARTE
ODEON-2	MAMASAN
ROBEN	SUPER B
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	COLLATERAL DAMAGE / MIMIC-2

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MAMASAN
REMAR	DISKARTE
REMAR-2	MAMASAN

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	DISKARTE
B	MAGKAPATID
C	I THINK I'M IN LOVE

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	A WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-2	FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DISKARTE
CINEMA-2	MAMASAN
CINEMA-3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SUPER B
CINEMA-6	UTANG NI TATANG
CINEMA-7	CASS & CARY
CINEMA-8	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-12	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
CINEMA-14	DISKARTE
CINEMA-15	SUPER B

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-2	DRAGONFLY
CINEMA-3	MURDER BY NUMBERS
CINEMA-4	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-5	A WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-6	A WALK TO REMEMBER

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

BABE MAGNETS

TV personalities Alfred Vargas (left) and Andrea del Rosario (right) recently joined the Gatsby "Be a Babe Magnet in 2 Minutes" tour of Metro Manila's malls and department stores. Customers got new hairdos for free plus the chance to win prizes. The final stop was at the Filinvest Festival SuperMall in Alabang. Gatsby water gloss gives hair a wet look that stays longer than other brands. Makeover participants who purchased Gatsby products posed for photos with Andrea and Alfred, like Rosely Ruiz above, and took home grooming kits, T-shirts, and Gatsby products which distributed locally by Mandom Philippines Inc.

Movie sequel on video

THE MUCH-AWAITED sequel of the "Deathstalker" series is now released by C-Interactive Digital Entertainment in both VHS and VCD formats.

"Deathstalker IV" is an erotic adventure filmed in the tradition of the Arnold Schwarzenegger action starrer, "Conan, The Barbarian."

Witness the battle of the greatest barbarians gathered in one arena. It's a tournament where the weakest pays for the blood and only the mightiest prevails.

"Deathstalker IV" is best seen on original copies.

For inquiries, call C-Interactive Hotline at 245-5011 to 12 or visit your favorite video outlets nationwide.

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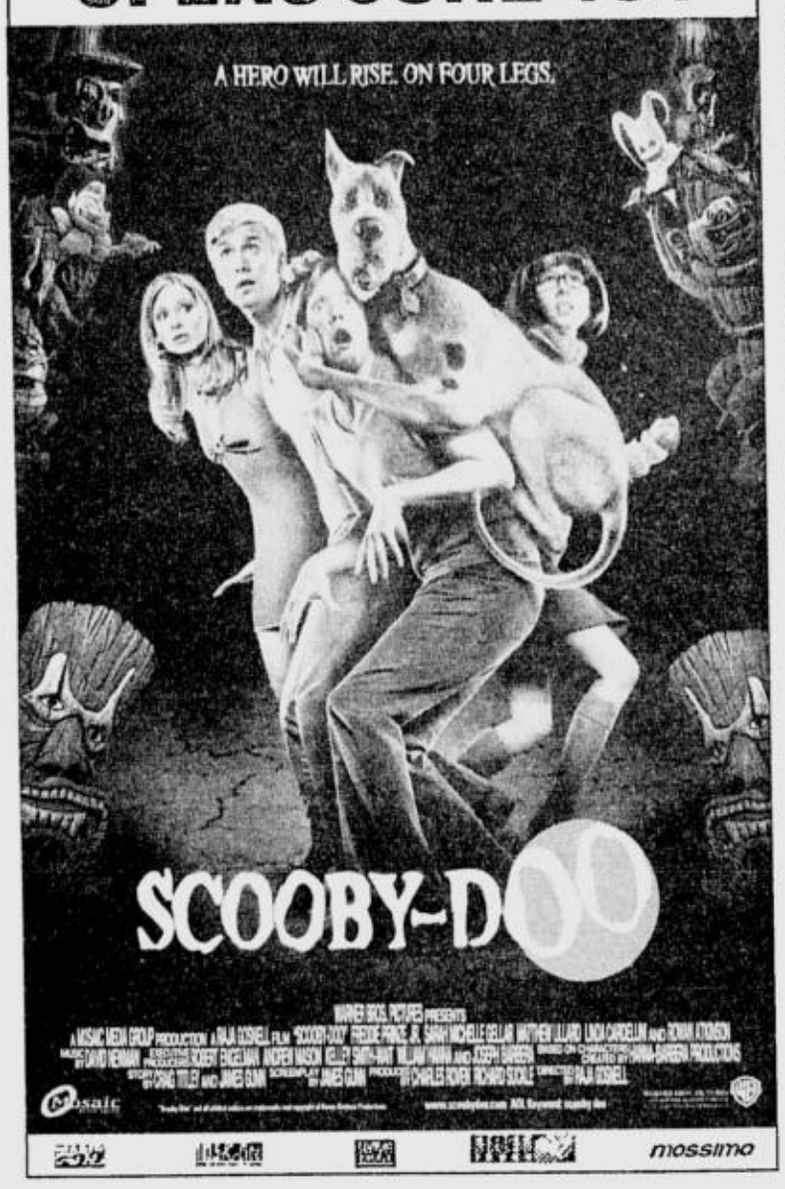

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POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City — Tel. No: 8981440-41 — DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

STAR WARS - GP 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40	DRAGONFLY - P13 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	MURDER BY NUMBERS - R18 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00
MAGKAPATID - GP 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	A WALK TO REMEMBER - GP 12:10, 2:25, 4:40, 6:55, 9:10	A WALK TO REMEMBER - GP 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Manila filmfest 'most successful' in history

By Jerome Aning

THE P15-million first-day earnings of the current Manila Film Festival has made it the most successful in the filmfest's history, the city government announced last week.

Mayor Lito Atienza called the 2002 MFF "a big success," adding that "we were right in our decision to make it more mass-oriented because it really generated a strong positive response from the movie-going public."

The festival opened on June 12. On the second day, the six entries earned about two-fifths of the opening-day gains, Manila city hall said.

Friday afternoon, the mayor distributed incentives of P1 million each to the producers of the six official entries—Maverick Film for "Diskarte," Regal Films for "I Think I'm in Love," Viva for "Magkapatid," World Arts Cinema for "Utang ni Tatang," FLT for "Mamasan" and Neo Films for "Super B Saves the Day."

The incentives, given out in a ceremony at the Bulwagang Antonio Villegas, are part of the city government's efforts to encourage more participation in the MFF.

Deputy city administrator and MFF secretariat head Ma. Lourdes Isip said the first-day receipts of the six entries were almost double the total earnings of the last MFF held in 1999. That year's festival earned a total of P8 million.

Filmfest organizers expected the box-office performance to increase during the weekend, when more movie fans trooped to the theaters.

Atienza attributed the MFF's good showing to the "excellent quality (of the entries), the active participation of the producers and the stars in the pre-festival events and City Hall's sufficient preparations for the event."

Atienza earlier signed an ordinance that reduced by half the 30-percent amusement tax imposed on locally-produced films shown in Manila.

The MFF entries are exempted from paying the amusement tax.

Aiza returns to Suburbia

SEGUERRA

SUBURBIA Malate delivers first-rate entertainment with their all-star band cast from Monday to Saturday.

Start off Mondays with the country's premier band Side A invigorating the night with their powerful line-up of original hits and dance tunes.

Due to numerous requests, Aiza Seguerra returns on stage on Tuesdays for a repeat of her highly successful one-night concert, "Aiza Live at Suburbia."

Aiza will perform back-to-back with M Power band. She will regale the crowd with a repertoire of all-time favorite tunes from great artists such as Paula Cole, Beatles, The Corrs, Indigo Girls, Alanis Morisette and Stevie Wonder. She will also do a string of her OPM hits and a unique acoustic medley of VST and Co.'s unforgettable music.

Joining Aiza onstage are Bobby Taylo on bass, Roy Mercado on drums and musical director Ric Mercado on acoustic lead guitar.

South Border joins the league with a regular gig on Wednesdays, back-to-back with pop band Elements.

The cool and smooth sounds of Freestyle and 7th Soul fill up the venue on Thursdays.

On Fridays, Fat Session and Escape dominate the scene.

Pido With Take One and Blue Ground cap the week with Saturday performances.

For inquiries and reservations, call Suburbia Malate at 450-1685 to 86.

Complements and constants, single moms and sisters

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I GOT a call from **Bibeth Orteza**, an intelligent and outspoken woman whose opinions always manage to make me think, after she read Friday's column. She told me that rather than pray for a perfect match, I should be on the lookout for my "complement."

According to my Encarta World English Dictionary, a complement is a completing part, something that completes or perfects something else. It can also mean one of two, either of two things that form a unit.

Bibeth said a perfect match would be a bore, or would possibly cause too many fireworks. A complement will make it possible to have a sustainable, growing, and evolving relationship.

As mom loves to remind me, "a good partner will bring out the best in you." Someone who's a perfect match will have both your strong and weak points; it would be nearly impossible for any balance to exist in your relationship. Peaks and valleys are good for rollercoaster rides, but not for long-distance journeys.

While writing this column, I was watching my "sinister sister" **Boy Abunda** conduct **John Estrada**'s birthday interview on "MTB." **Luigi Muhlach**'s short but very touching tribute to John brought tears to my eyes. He said that John was the kind of dad "who really made time for and gave time to his kids."

John is really just Luigi's stepfather. He and Luigi's mom, **Janice de Belen**, are estranged at this point, but you should give him credit for still being a constant in Luigi's life.

Exemplary

My cousin **Rina** and I shared the same sentiment when we said that we really admire Janice for having so much courage to move on and no apparent bitterness in her heart. It took a lot for her to allow her kids to be with John on his birthday in two separate celebrations on television, on "MTB" and on "Talk TV" which airs opposite her own, "Sis."

Their kids are all healthy, adorable, polite, articulate, and loving to both parents. There's no doubt that Janice is an exemplary mother.

I'm a mom and I know that since most of the time the kids of separated parents stay with their mom, their adjustment and well-being is largely dependent on what they see of her. If she has a positive outlook, and avoids bad-mouthing and blaming the dad, then the kids will not feel torn and will grow up secure in the love of both parents, even if the latter live separately.

Ipe said it best during our last "The Buzz" interview when he said that he still cared about whoever I may eventually end up with because my relationship and my happiness or sorrow will have a direct bearing on the well-being of our son Josh.

Excellent

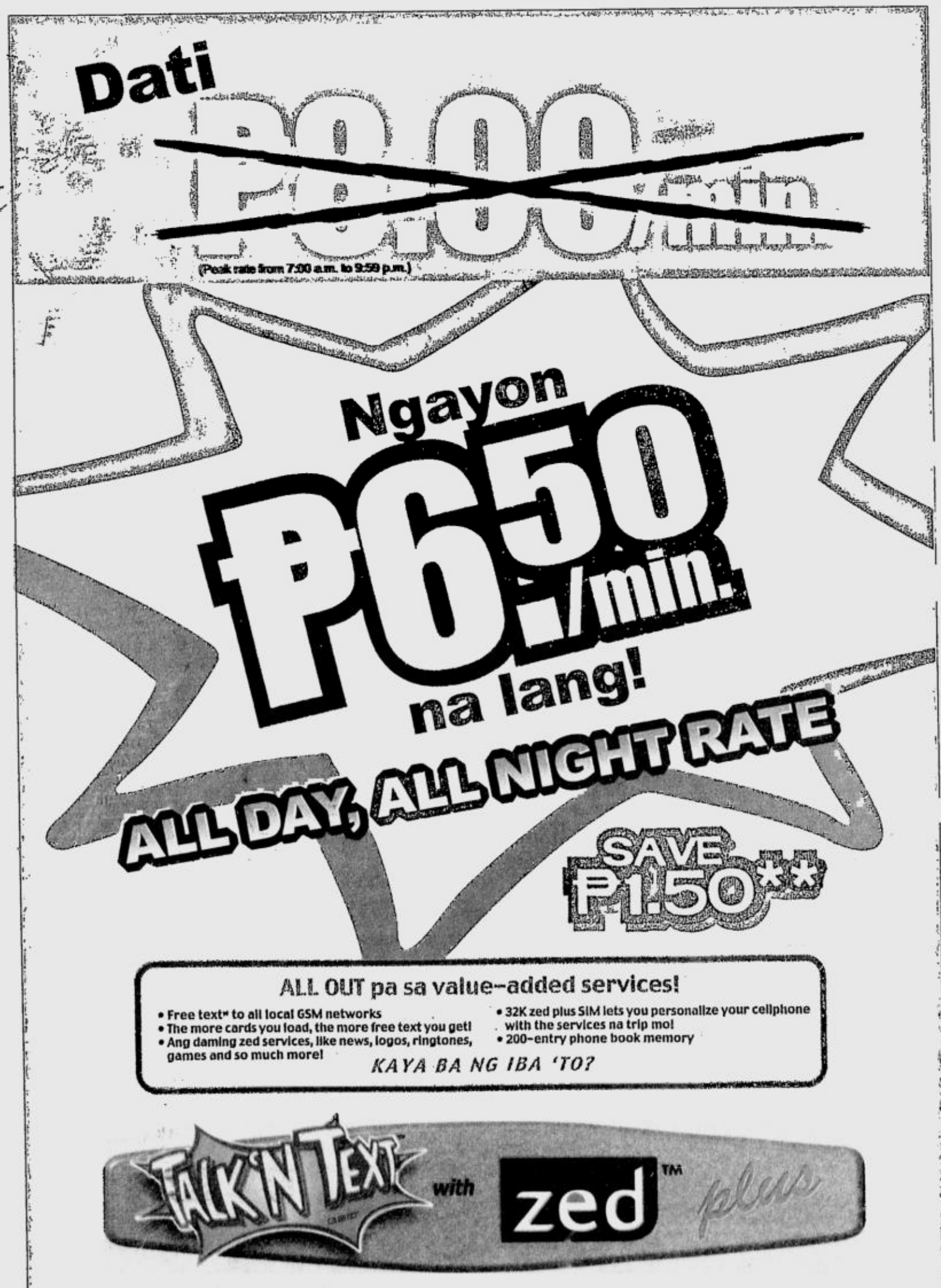
Let me make a plug for the film "Magkapatid," which I saw Thursday night at the Power Plant Mall. I saw it with my cousins Rina and **Maria**, my friends **Angeli** and **Zsa Zsa**, and a lone thorn, **Bernard**.

I've always been a "Sharonian" and this is one of her best, most convincing performances. **Sharon** is excellent in showing us the depth of sorrow and confusion of a mom who has suffered the worst type of loss possible.

Christopher de Leon has an excellent, straight to the heart moment while addressing his son Justin, at Justin's tomb in the family mausoleum. **Judy Ann Santos** and **Dingdong Dantes** are a good pair, essaying credibly the travails of a young married couple. Juday is at her best in her scenes of sisterly bonding with Shawie. You can see and feel that the two really connect, and they establish an easy, comfortable rapport.

Direk **Joel Lamangan** did a great job because a lot of the scenes are "*tuhog*," meaning there were no cuts or changes in camera angles, just a seamless, flowing take. It's impressive because for film, with just one camera, the blocking has to be very precise and the measurements of the focus, the position of the dolly tracks as well as the movements and delivery of the dialogue have to be rehearsed over and over again. The benefit is that you get a continuous and natural flow of the action and emotions.

This is one melodrama that doesn't ever feel long drawn out. The pacing is just right, and the film is very successful in making me care deeply about the characters.



MTV SUPPORTERS. (from left) TGI Friday's Robert Santos, MTV Southeast Asia managing director Peter Bullard, Outback Restaurant's Ed de los Reyes, MTV's Bong Paderna and Italianni's Jean Paul Manuud.

Restaurants join MTV star-studded shindig

IT was a night that brought the stars out from the heavens. From the country's top music artists to the hip and happening celebrity guests, the recent MTV Pilipinas 2002 was nothing less than a star-studded affair.

But what's a celebration without a feast of food and drinks? Unthinkable! So while MTV Philippines doffed its hats off to the best in music video-making in the country, TGI Friday's, Italianni's Restaurant and Outback Restaurant treated everyone to the best food and drinks.

Plates overflowed with Friday's munch-ons and Italianni's bread and pastries, while Outback's bar filled everybody's cup with their favorite drinks.

Making sure that food and drinks were served non-stop were Friday's director for operations Robert Santos, Outback Restaurant operating partner Ed de los Reyes and Italianni's Restaurant general manager Jean Paul Manuud, with their efficient team of managers and servers.

The three restaurants' treats were the perfect "appetizers" to the evening's spectacular shindig that featured red-hot performances from the nominees.

There was the memorable opening number that featured best group contenders Rivermaya (who was the big winner of the night with three awards for "Umaaraw, Umuulan"), Barbie's Cradle and True Faith.

Gary Valenciano (who won the best male award) and Kyla (who won the most favorite love ballad award) also took the stage and delivered a heartfelt performance of "Can We Just Stop and Talk A While."

Other performers were Regine Velasquez, Maegan Aguilar, Carol Banawa, Karl Roy and Kevin Roy and Jet Pangan, Imago, 7 Shots of Wisdom and Grace Nono.

Hosting MTV Pilipinas 2002 was the wacky Martin Nievera, who gabbed it up with MTV VJs Donita Rose, Sarah Meier, Belinda Panelo and KC Montero.

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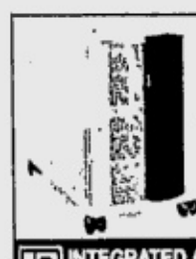
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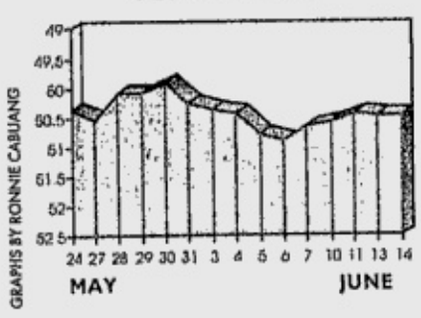

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Market sees technical rebound

DESPITE the uncertainties that continue to hound investors, local stocks are seen to benefit from some sporadic bargain-hunting activities this week after falling to oversold levels in the last two weeks.

Last week, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange Composite Index shed 9.12 points or 0.72 percent to close at 1,265.75 on Friday.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said the market should see a technical rebound this week as the index had been going down for so long.

The market is still jittery over a possible long-drawn corporate squabble within index heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and a string of economic concerns here and abroad.

Stock market portal 2tradeasia.com agreed that the prevailing weakness could present opportunities to investors to cherry-pick on

MARKET/ B6

Gokongwei seen setting his sights next on PAL

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WHILE his ambitious plan to acquire First Pacific's Philippine telecommunication and property has reached a temporary stalemate, taipan John Gokongwei is widely expected to train his guns on Philippine Airlines as his next takeover target.

Informed sources said Gokongwei was seriously studying making a financial offer to buy out taipan Lucio Tan's controlling interest in the national flag carrier. Gokongwei owns Cebu Pacific Air Corp. which is the country's No. 2 airline and the most potent threat to PAL's dominance in the airline business.

But Gokongwei's son and heir apparent, JG Summit president Lance Gokongwei, quickly brushed off this news as pure speculation. He told the INQUIRER that his group already has too much on its plate with the $925-million bid for First Pacific's 24.4-percent stake in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Corp. and 50.4 percent in Bonifacio Land Corp.

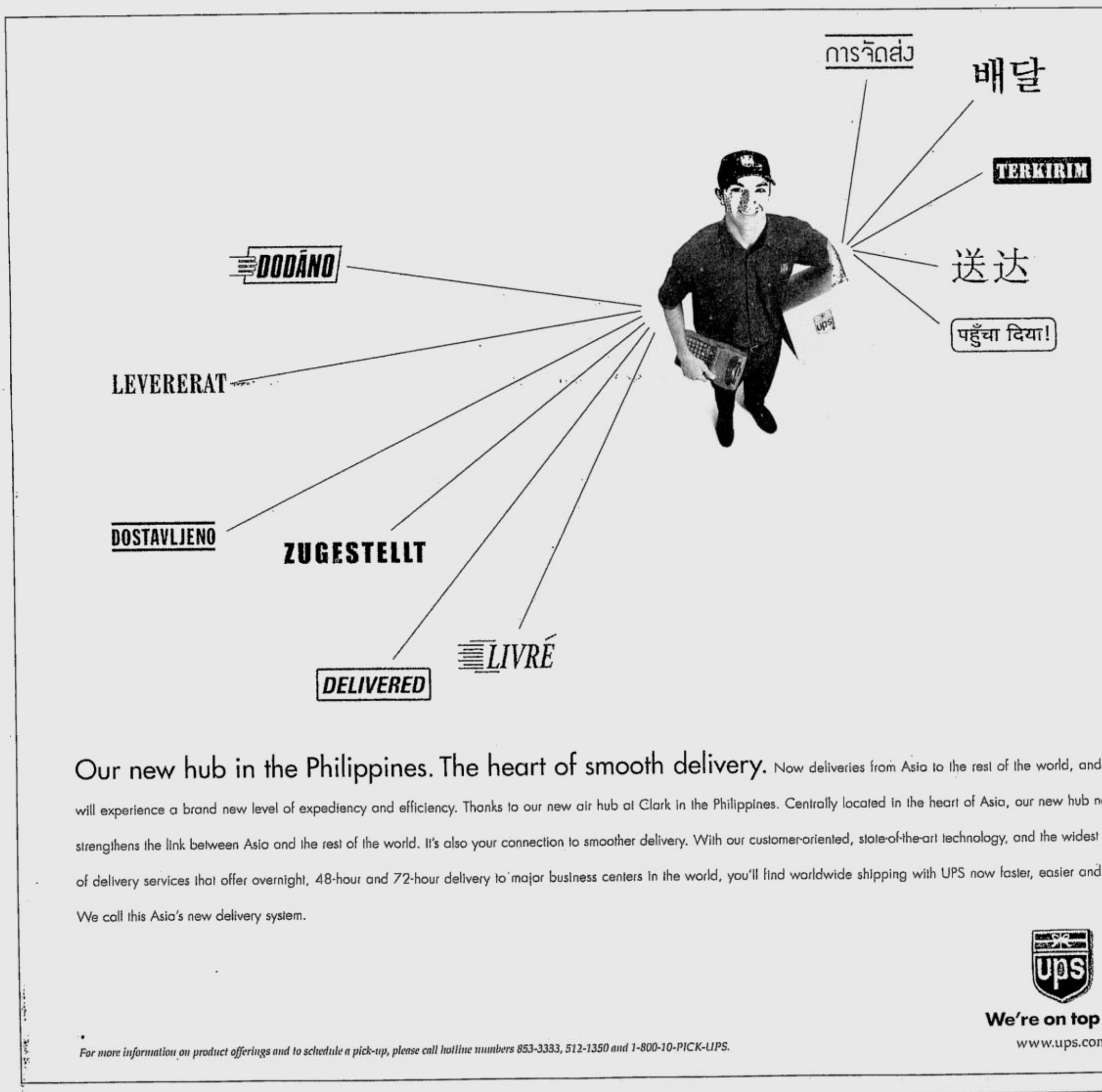
He said that going after PAL was unlikely especially if the group succeeded in completing the deal with First Pacific which has been

THE COUNTRY'S flag carrier is now a takeover target.

vigorously opposed by PLDT president Manuel V. Pangilinan, who was reportedly building up a consortium to counter Gokongwei's two-pronged attack.

Gokongwei's takeover bid has been stalled as Pangilinan openly defied his First Pacific partners in his determination to parry the

GOKONGWEI/ B6



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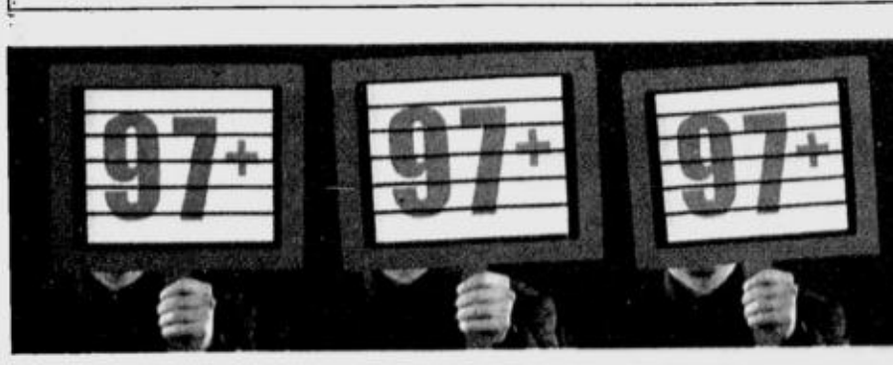

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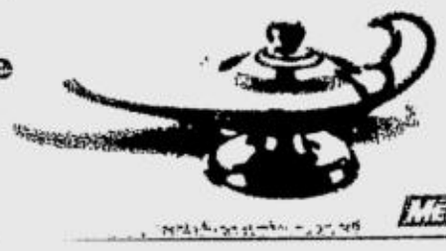
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Benpres seeks buyer of Maynilad stake

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By Doris C. Dumlao

BENPRES Holdings Corp. is negotiating with French water firm Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux for the sellout or selldown of the Lopez-owned holding firm's 60-percent stake in their water concession joint venture Maynilad Water Services Inc.

Benpres recently engaged Credit Lyonnais Securities Asia (CLSA) to identify and attract new investors in Maynilad as the company could not raise the counterpart equity needed to secure $350 million in financing needed by the venture.

In an interview, Benpres chief finance officer Angel Ong confirmed that Suez Lyonnaise, which owns 40 percent of Maynilad, was among those being eyed to take up the Benpres' stake in the venture.

"They (Suez Lyonnaise) are one of the prospective investors," Ong said. "I can only tell you that there are ongoing discussions. On top of what CLSA is doing, we (Benpres) are also looking for investors," he said.

But in view of the 40-percent foreign ownership ceiling on utility firms like Maynilad, Ong said the buy-in, if it would involve foreign investors, would be done through the Philippine Depository Receipts (PDRs) structure. This will be similar to the procedure used to increase the liquidity of another Lopez subsidiary, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.

A PDR is an evidence of ownership of shares to be held by a separate holding firm, similar to quedan certificates that represent ownership of certain sugar stocks.

Suez Lyonnaise, a leading international water company, currently supplies drinking water to over 50 million people around the world, including Europe and Asia.

The Lopez-Suez joint venture bagged the 25-year deal for the western part of the Metro Manila concession area of the Metropolitan Waterworks Sewerage System in August 1997. This covers 2,534 kilometers of waterworks, nine reservoirs and 10 pumping stations. The areas covered by the concession are: Pasay, Caloocan, Muntinlupa, Manila, and certain areas in Makati, Quezon City, Valenzuela and Cavite. In Cavite, the concession covers Cavite City and the municipalities of Bacoor, Imus, Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario.

Creditors have required Maynilad to raise $45 million in fresh equity before they would provide the company some fresh loans. During Benpres' stockholders meeting early this month, company chair Oscar Lopez admitted that the holding firm was not in a position to provide its share to the capital build-up.

The Lopezes' holding firm is seeking the rescheduling of its $596.9 million (P31 billion) worth of debts, selling stakes in "non-core" subsidiaries and pursuing belt-tightening in a three-pronged strategy to restore its financial health. The plan is to aggressively downsize Benpres' assets and to focus only on flagship units ABS-CBN and First Philippine Holdings Corp., other subsidiaries are now considered non-core assets.

Lopez said the dilution of the ownership and management control of Maynilad and Manila North Tollways, another infrastructure project, would not necessarily be bad for Benpres.

He noted that the government would still have to pursue a lot of reforms to make the water distribution business more viable for private concessions. Also, he noted that certain commitments such as the supply of additional water by the government had been delayed.

"And when the economy is performing poorly, it appears that providers of essential public services become society's favorite whipping boys, regardless of the quality of service they provide," Lopez said.

"Unfortunately, we cannot sustain quality public services at a loss. Businesses will exist only if they are able to serve the needs of their customers. But businesses will also exist only if their stockholders earn a reasonable rate of return on their capital. Otherwise, capital will migrate to wherever it can earn a better return," he said.

He said that Benpres' devastating experience in Maynilad and telecommunications unit Bayan Telecommunications had prompted the group to rethink its involvement in major public utilities.

"Our current circumstances may compel us to sell down or sell out of projects like the tollroad and Maynilad. Looking beyond, however, I believe that we must refocus on the core businesses that carried us to our position of prominence, namely, media and television on the one hand, and power generation and distribution, on the other. These are the businesses we know best and where we can recognize our best opportunities," he said.

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Pyramid scam now called multilevel marketing

IT IS called multilevel marketing. It is nothing but a variation of the old-time Ponzi scheme (sometimes called the pyramid). Charles A. Ponzi, an American Italian-born swindler, earned a niche in Merriam-Webster dictionary with his scheme in which "some early investors are paid off with money put up by later ones in order to encourage more and bigger risks."

For example, Ponzi would collect $1,000 from Paul, promising to double the money in a month's time. Ponzi would then collect $2,000 from Peter, promising to double the money in a month's time. Ponzi would then pay Paul $2,000 as promised. In short, Ponzi robbed Peter to pay Paul.

The scheme is also called the pyramid because the swindler collects from one investor to start with, then the same amount from each of two more investors in the next level, then from four investors in the next, and so on. The number of investors is doubled at each level, thereby forming a pyramid of an ever-widening base.

The first investor is paid off with the collection from the second level of investors, and so forth. Inevitably, the pyramid will collapse as the number of investors runs out.

There is a pre-need company that operates a variation of the pyramid scheme. It sells a pension plan at an annual premium of P13,930 a year for five years. At the end of 10 years, you are handed the maturity value of P100,000, which you can take in lump sum or at a lifetime pension of P1,000 a month, subject to prevailing interest rate at the time of availment.

By itself, the plan is a darn good deal. But, like all pre-need plans, if you miss a payment, you must reinstate your plan within two years or all your previous payments vanish into thin air. These confiscated or orphaned payments are one of the biggest sources of income of the pre-need company. In a life insurance, the company takes great pains to convince the policyholder to reinstate his lapsed policy. In pre-need, a lapsed contract that is never reinstated is pure profit.

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

The pension plan of this pre-need company is sold through what is called multilevel marketing, a rather sophisticated version of the old Ponzi scheme. On the first day, you refer two people who will pay P13,930 each. For this, you get a referral fee of P2,500. On the second day, these two people will each refer a pair who will each invest P13,930. For this, you get a referral fee of P5,000. And so on, and on. In fact, it is the marketing scheme—not the pension plan—that is used to lure people to become agents. This is the pyramid where maturity payments to the upper level are paid out of the current collections from new investors. It's robbing Peter to pay Paul. all over again.

The investment of funds of pre-need companies is little regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission. On the other hand, investments of funds collected from the public by insurance companies are severely regulated under the Insurance Code and tightly supervised by the Insurance Commission. Once or twice a year, the dreaded, eagle-eyed auditors of the Insurance Commission swoop down on the insurance companies.

The pre-need companies are required to maintain a reserve fund at a bank. But this has little connection with the liabilities of the company to its buyers.

For the buyer, the returns on a pre-need plan are quite attractive. But, bear in mind, the greater return, the greater the risk. Which is precisely the reason why you should avoid a pre-need plan like the plague—especially when it is sold through the so-called multilevel marketing.

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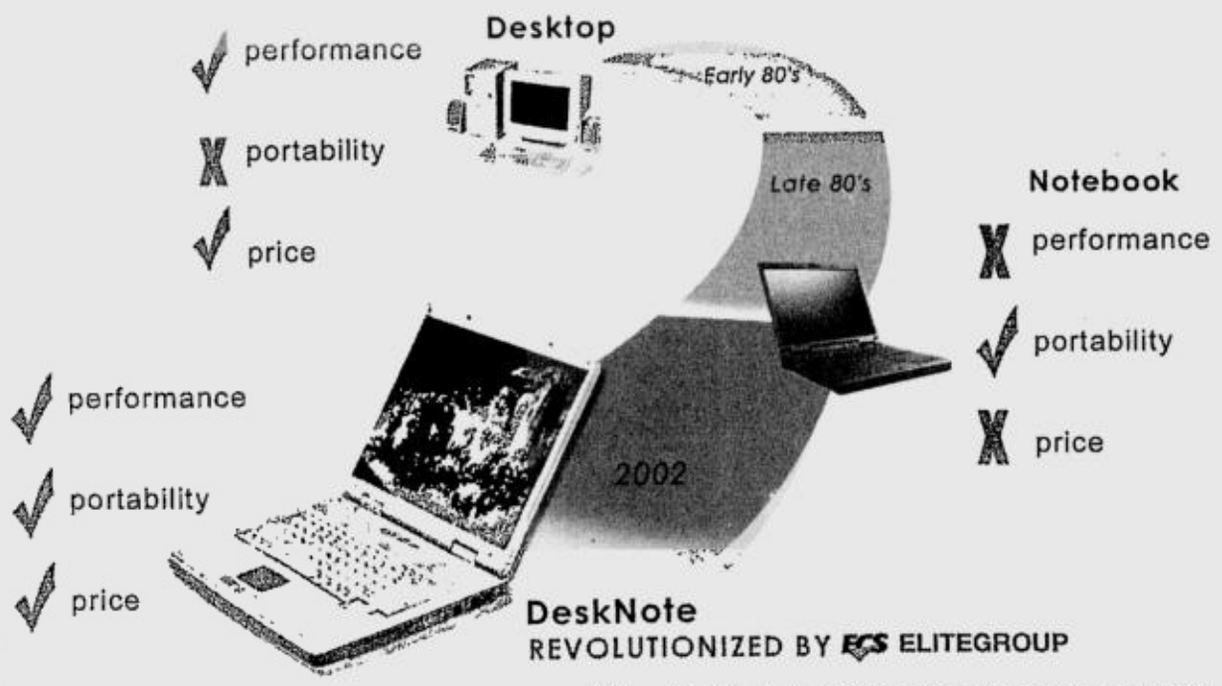

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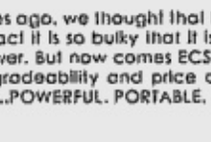
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Tokyo's call

PLDT chair Antonio O. Cojuangco and president Manuel V. Pangilinan are scheduled to leave for Tokyo on Wednesday to try and lobby the NTT board to stop the impending Gokongwei takeover, according to the PLDT grapevine.

The Tokyo trip comes in the wake of taipan John Gokongwei's acknowledgment that only Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. could stop the First Pacific of Hong Kong from forming a joint venture with Gokongwei, a scheme that would eventually allow the taipan to take control of PLDT.

NTT has about 15-percent stake in PLDT, while First Pacific has about 31 percent both in direct and indirect stake. In addition, NTT and First Pacific have an open-ended shareholders' agreement that effectively combines the two foreign firms as one voting bloc, ensuring their combined control over PLDT, Smart and Piltel.

First Pacific still has to formally notify NTT about its deal with Gokongwei, although it had already disclosed to the Hong Kong authorities that the Gokongwei entry would be conditioned on NTT "not having exercised their right of first refusal or veto (if applicable)."

NTT has 20 days after receiving the First Pacific notice to exercise such refusal or veto. NTT can choose to stay on the sidelines and allow the First Pacific-Gokongwei deal to proceed, or it can choose to question the deal, effectively breaking NTT's shareholders' agreement with First Pacific.

According to the pro-Gokongwei grapevine, it does not make any economic sense for NTT to break its partnership with First Pacific since NTT is right now "on the driver's seat with First Pacific" as far as PLDT and its allied telecom companies are concerned.

In addition, Gokongwei apparently has assured NTT that it would also respect whatever technical and supply agreements the Japanese telecom company has forged with PLDT by way of First Pacific.

Cojuangco and Pangilinan are scheduled to bring two Accra lawyers, Victor Lazatin and Francisco Lim, to Tokyo for the NTT meeting.

According to the grapevine, Accra is preparing a number of litigious roadblocks that should at least buy time for the rumored Cojuangco-led management counter-proposal being readied against First Pacific.

Crisis salaries

IT has been five years since the Asian currency crisis erupted, but the management of the listed Kuok Philippine Properties has yet to recover from its debilitating impact, salary-wise.

Kuok Properties, which owns such five-star developments as the Shangri-La hotels and the Enterprise Center, is still in a slump as far as executive compensation is concerned.

This year, Kuok Properties slashed by more than three-fourths the combined pay package for top management to P3.3 million from last year's P14.7 million. To think that the 2001 package was already nearly half of the P24.19 million received by the group in 2000, when the crisis and Erap uncertainty were still clouding the horizon.

The secret of the successful belt-tightening? Kuok simply removed its chief executive officer last year.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Party time

THE FLOATING Island restaurant of the Makati Medical Center was unexpectedly closed to the public and even to hospital staff Tuesday night allegedly because actor Rudy Fernandez, with detained San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada as special guest, was holding a "press conference."

The strange thing about the presscon was that it lasted until the next morning—the 24-hour restaurant was still closed even for customers who wanted coffee at 7 a.m.—with the restaurant staff even seen collecting what looked liked empty bottles of red wine after what turned out to be a boisterous all-night affair.

Heard through the grapevine

IT is just mid-year and already this undersecretary of transportation and communications has spent P1.3 million in travel expenses and allowances. The expenses do not include airfare, and certainly not the pocket and shopping money of his wife. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

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Foreign groups keen on acquiring UCPB

By Clarissa S. Batino

SEVERAL foreign groups have expressed interest in buying a 95-percent stake in United Coconut Planters Bank.

The prospective buyers include Taiwan's Fubon Group and US-based venture fund Newbridge Capital.

Sources said most of the groups that sought to buy into Equitable PCI Bank Inc. when that bank solicited bids for a minority stake were also the ones setting their sights on UCPB.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura confirmed that several, mostly foreign, groups had asked about the ninth largest bank, but he refused to reveal their identities.

Buenaventura said he talked with UCPB chair Edward Go and his understanding was that the plan to forge an agreement among shareholders contesting the ownership of the bank to sell the sequestered 95-percent stake was moving forward.

"I talked to Eddie Go, and my understanding was that *mukhang nagkakaintindihan na daw* (there seemed to be an understanding)," he said.

Apart from Fubon and Newbridge, among those that eyed a stake in Equitable PCI Bank were Sycamore Funds, Spain's Banco Santander Central Hispano, DBS Bank of Singapore, Standard Chartered Bank, and local players JG Summit Holdings Inc. and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

"Those interested in buying UCPB are either venture capitalists who will come in, help it turn around and probably sell. There are also those who will stay long term," a banking industry source said.

A new investor, according to another source, will probably spend about P10 billion to P15 billion to buy into UCPB and re-capitalize it.

To meet the central bank's minimum capital adequacy ratio and be at par with other universal lenders, UCPB must raise its capital by about P8 billion to P10 billion.

The money to buy the shares, said the source, would be much less than P10 billion.

UCPB's plan is to forge a memorandum of agreement among its shareholders to agree to sell the sequestered shares to a buyer who will not only purchase the stake but also put in fresh capital.

The proceeds will be placed in an escrow account that may be opened only by the rightful owner once all pending cases in court are settled.

About 95 percent of UCPB's shares are being contested by former Marcos crony Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. and by a group of coconut farmers.

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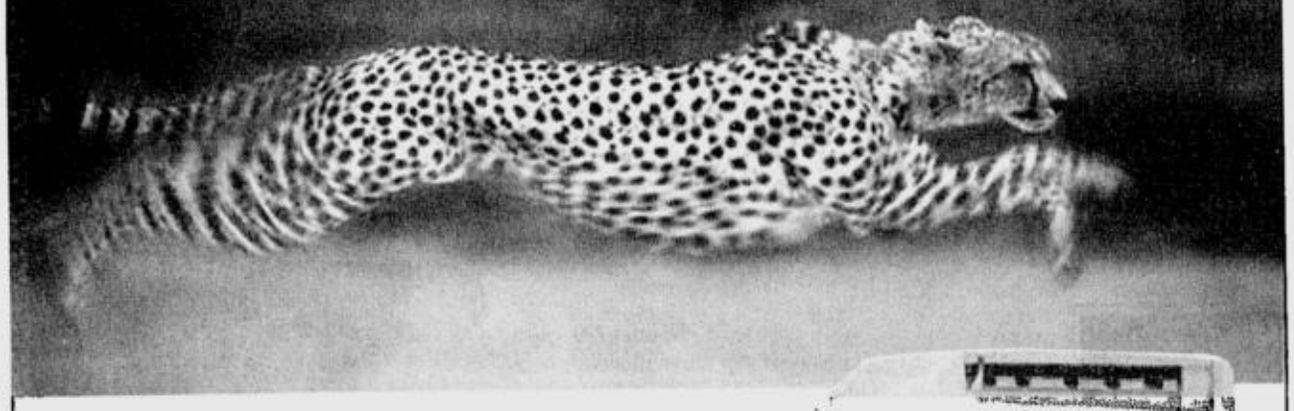

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Port project faces more snags

By Abigail L. Ho

ALREADY set back by 20 years, the P4-billion North Harbor modernization project is set to be set back even further, as the auction terms for it will not be completed until November this year at the soonest.

The Philippine Ports Authority will fund the P1-billion first phase of the three-phase project, while the next two phases, worth about P3 billion, will be auctioned off to the private sector.

In an interview, PPA executive assistant to the general manager Vincent Tan said the Coordinating Council for Private Sector Participation (CCPSP), the group drafting the terms of reference for the bidding, "was still working on (the terms)."

"The (terms of reference) would hopefully be completed by November," he said.

He added that it would be better if the auction terms would be finalized earlier, as a number of entities had already expressed interest in the project.

"Quite a number of parties have shown interest. These are mostly local groups, although I think there will also be foreign firms through joint-venture deals," Tan said.

In an earlier interview, PPA general manager Alfonso Cusi said the CCPSP should have submitted the terms of reference as early as January, but the PPA wanted some changes done to a draft that the group submitted.

"Some changes had to be made, as we didn't agree on some of the terms," he said.

The port modernization project involves the merging of piers, construction of a new quay and a passenger terminal building, and reinforcement and repair works for the proposed three phases starting at the Marine Slipway going south toward Pier 2.

The first phase would have three tranches, the first tranche of which costs P300 million and involves connecting the Marine Slipway to pier 14.

The PPA, meanwhile, will also be conducting repair works on the collapsed portion of the Marine Slipway.

As this would affect the operations of local shipping lines, Tan said the PPA suggested that these local liners approach South Harbor operator Asian Terminals Inc. for temporary docking.

However, no concrete agreement with any shipping line had been reached yet.

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PNOC surveying new sites

SUBSIDIARIES of Philippine National Oil Co. are surveying new prospects for natural gas deposits in the Central Luzon basin, even as they are maintaining exploration studies in Victoria, Tarlac.

PNOC Exploration Corp. president Rufino Bomasang said in an interview last week that the firm was doing mapping surveys of possible finds in eastern Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

"We are also reviewing available data on the area as part of efforts to determine new drilling sites," Bomasang said.

He explained that past studies on the Central Luzon basin indicated the presence of limestone reservoirs in the east.

"Historically, we are luckier with limestone reservoirs," Bomasang said. "Those in San Antonio (Isabela) and Malampaya are limestone."

He was referring to the two fields successfully producing natural gas.

Bomasang said the reservoir in Victoria was made of sandstone.

"Reserves found in sandstone structures are usually 'dirty,'" he added.

The country's hopes to tap new sources of natural gas were dampened when test results showed that the Victoria gas reserve was contaminated with water.

PNOC-EC and PNOC Energy Development Corp., who cooperated on the Victoria drilling project, decided to plug and abandon the Victoria-3 well in March when efforts to separate the water from the gas failed.

But PNOC-EDC chair Sergio Apostol, in a separate interview, said he had not lost hope in Victoria.

"We proved that there is gas in the area," Apostol said. "I think we can find (uncontaminated) gas somewhere near Victoria-3." ***Ronnel W. Domingo***

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RISKS, CHALLENGES STILL PRESENT

Stronger demand, exports seen propelling RP growth

LONDON-based Kevin Grice, a senior economist of American Express Bank, was in Manila a few weeks ago to share his outlook on the global economy and the implications on various countries like the Philippines.

Grice has been with AEB's Global Economics Unit since 1996. His areas of expertise are global economics, markets overview, Japan, East Asia and Latin America. He deals with investment issues and country risk analyses and travels widely in Asia and Latin America to discuss the bank's views to its clients.

In an interview with The INQUIRER's Doris Dumlao, Grice also shared his growth projection for the United States, and his views on the economic challenges being faced by the Philippines, including the entry of China to the World Trade Organization, the pace of structural reforms, high debt ratio as well as the risks arising from the political uncertainties in Brazil.

QUESTIONS *& Answers*

GRICE

Excerpts from the interview:

Q: How do you think the global economy will fare this year?

A: We're quite positive on the global economy for the rest of 2002. We think that there will be sustained economic upswing in the US and that will lead to a similar trend in Europe. Japan will also be looking better. There'll be quite a strong economic recovery in the rest of Asia.

We're quite positive on the US upswing because of three reasons: The strong inventories during the first half of 2002, higher private consumption spending, and higher investment spending in the second half of 2002.

Q: What do you think would be the extent of the expansion of the global economy?

A: We don't have global numbers but in terms of the US economy, in the first quarter, it grew very strongly at 5.8 percent. We think that during the rest of the year, growth will slow down a bit to 3-3.5 percent, which is okay.

It's interesting that the first quarter is the best quarter in terms of growth in the US economy for the rest of the year.

Historically, you'll find that earlier quarters are not the best performers.

Growth usually picks up gradually. This is why we think that the US upswing is going to be a little bit unusual.

Q: What is the outlook for Europe?

A: In Europe, economic recovery is coming through but, like the US, it's being driven at the moment by inventories.

With the cutback (in inventories) in 2001, some companies are rebuilding stocks a little bit. Secondly, the recovery in Europe is being driven by increasing exports to the US and Asia. We think that the growth in Europe will gradually pick up but the profile of growth will be different. It will be similar to the Philippines'. It will be weaker in the first half but will get stronger the rest of the year. That's the reason why we think the euro will continue to make gains against the US dollar.

The problem in Europe is inflation, wages are rising quite strongly.

This means that interest rates in Europe may rise ahead of that in the United States.

Q: What are the implications of those factors on Asia?

A: The US upswing is like a tide that's lifting all boats. It's even lifting Japan. The Japanese economy is coming out of recession now essentially because its exports and its industrial sector are doing well. The key problem in Japan though is that the domestic economy is still very weak because the domestic structural problems remain unresolved. So our view in Japan is that yes, there will be an upswing but it will be very, very weak and it will fade quite quickly.

Japan's economy will look okay and will be so over the next three months. As we move into 2003, I think the yen will weaken because Japan's economic recovery is built on sand. We think that by this time next year, the yen will be back to 130-140 to the US dollar.

The outlook for the rest of Asia, I think, is very good.

Q: What is the outlook for the Philippines given this global scenario?

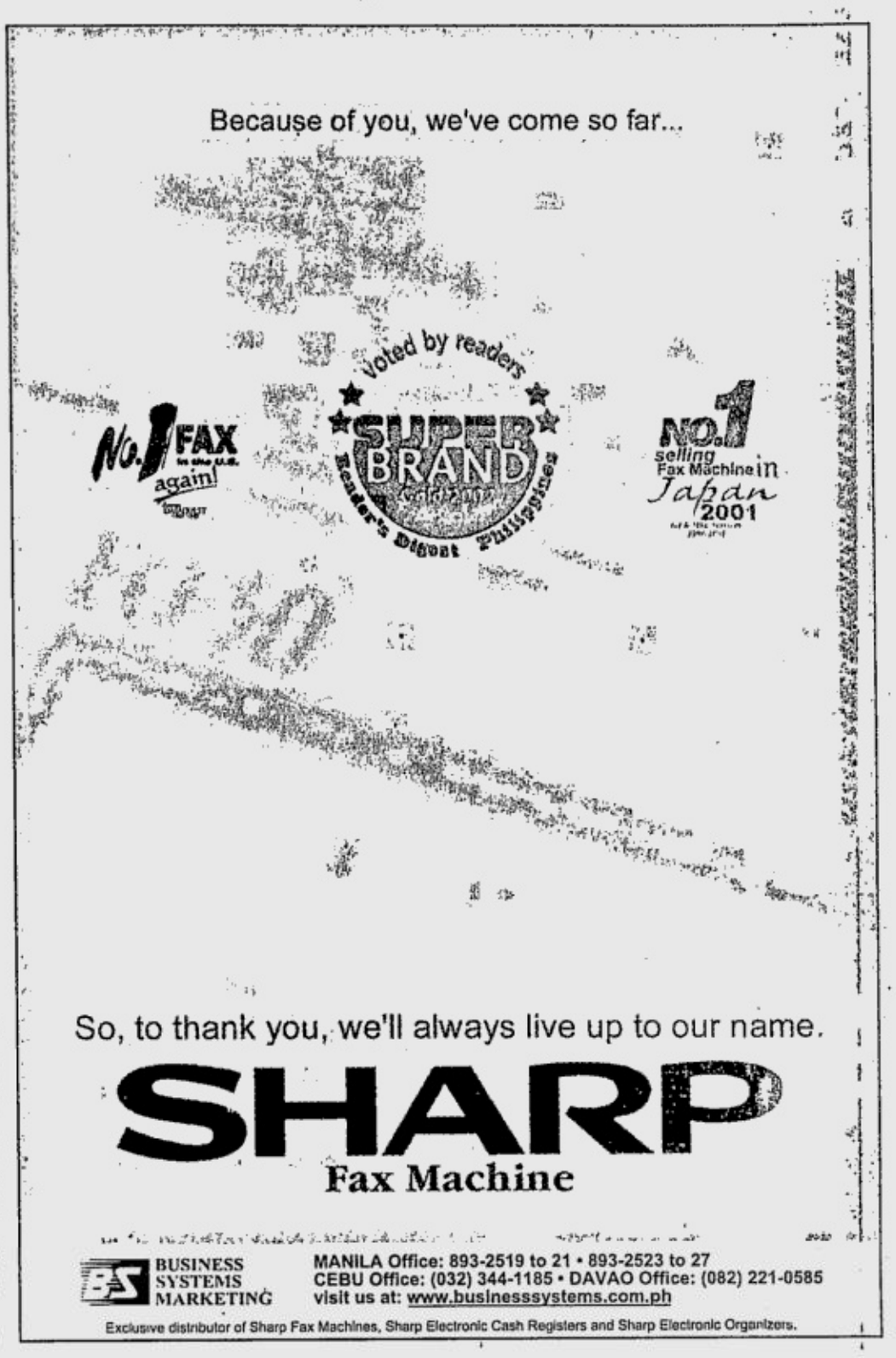
A: In the Philippines, there are signs that exports are coming back. There are signs that on the back of strong exports, you'll get a stronger manufacturing production. Also in Asia, you're getting strong domestic demand. The agriculture sector in the Philippines has been doing quite well—plus you've got quite low interest rates and higher fiscal spending. That pattern is being replicated across the region so we see significant pick-ups in economic growth across the Asian region in 2002 relative to 2001. We think the pick-up will continue in 2003.

Your GDP (gross domestic product) growth last year was 3.4 percent. We think that this year, growth will be a little bit stronger at about 3.5-4 percent.

However, the government's growth target of more than 4 percent is, we think, quite ambitious.

We think there's a very good chance that growth will be stronger this year and in 2003 than last year. We see growth at about 4 percent and we based that projection on the following: Domestic demand is quite strong because of low interest rates; the agriculture sector is still okay; fiscal spending is quite loose, and the industrial sector is picking up on the back of exports.We have some worries about the second half of the year due to El Niño (dry spell). It may impact on agriculture and that may slow down domestic demand quite a bit in the second half of the year but we think that by then, your exports will be doing well and you'll have a stronger industrial sector to offset a weaker agricultural sector. However, nobody really knows at the moment what the impact of El Niño will be on the agriculture sector and on the economy.

STRONGER/ B7



Garment, textile exports down 15%

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

GARMENTS and textile exports continued to post miserable figures in the first five months this year as shipments to quota markets, specifically the country's biggest market, the United States, dropped sharply on weak demand.

The Garments and Textile Export Board said exports fell 15 percent to $1.071 billion from January to May this year from $1.258 billion during the same period last year.

Garments and textile exports are performing much worse than last year as demand continues to be dampened by a slowdown in the world's major economies and the infighting in the GTEB, which has resulted in undue delays in export shipments and opportunity losses.

Exports of apparel, non-apparel and textile fell 7 percent to $2.974 billion last year from $3.2 billion in 2000.

Sales to quota countries—the US, Canada and Europe—lost 17.02 percent to $926.209 million in the first five months this year from $1.116 million a year ago.

The US market was particularly bad as exports plunged 19 percent to $778.974 million in the first five months this year from $959.866 million a year ago. Apparel exports to the US slipped 5.3 percent to $735.934 million during the period; non-apparel exports were down 82 percent to $29.727 million, while textile exports lost 5.33 percent to $13.313 million.

Shipments to Canada likewise fell by 17.22 percent to $22.63 million in the first five months this year from $27.339 million a year ago.

Exports to Europe fell by a more manageable 3.41 percent to $124.604 million as of May this year from $129.008 million a year ago. The top European markets are Great Britain (down 4.72 percent to $43.451 million), Germany (down 16,31 percent to $25.435 million), Benelux countries (down 5.65 percent to $23.131 million),and France (up 35.53 to $16.387 million).

Non-quota exports rose by 2.19 percent to $145.302 million in the first five months this year from $142.183 million during the same period last year.

The top non-quota export markets are Japan (down 18.3 percent to $43.663 million), United Arab Emirates (up 20.4 percent to $15.519 million), Hong Kong (up 14.76 percent to $13.025 million), Mexico (up .54 percent to $6.49 million, and Taiwan (up 36.27 percent to $6.277 million).

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100 YEARS IN THE PHILIPPINES

citibank

Till debt us do part

Don't cry for me Argentina
I'm sure we'll soon be seein' ya
Our debt is rising
It's not surprising
When 70 million
Owe $50 billion

—

Don't cry for me Argentina
I'm voting for Ara Mina
Our politicians
Have great ambitions

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

Look at the budget
They're going to fudge it.

—

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, lyrics by Mr. Bearbull.

MOODY'S is about to downgrade us from an emerging market to a submerging market.

Merrill Lynch has announced that it was constructing its own weighted index, after a long weight. It so happens that I know what it is. They have for some time been weighting the index alphabetically. That is why, up till May 30, the best performing stocks were ALI, AC, AEV, AMC and BPI. They invest 50 percent in stocks beginning with the letter A, 25 percent with the letter B, and so on, until those at the end get nothing. Like Einstein, I can prove this theory. Look at the letter Z. There's Zipporah and Zeus Holdings, both at their lows, and not even traded. As there are no stocks beginning with X or Y, we go to V, which has fallen from P3.25 to 48 centavos, then to UW, down from P7.10 to 9 centavos and finally to UP. This stock has fallen 99 percent from P5.60 to 5 centavos. Convinced? Yes, I know there are anomalies but don't confuse me with facts.

Jenine Desiderio, who replaced Lea Salonga as Kim in Miss Saigon, was the queen of song. Now she is making a bold movie, in which she is the queen of thong. All these bold starlets are competing to see who has the biggest boobs, but they can't compete with my computer. It has a 128K mammary.

President Bush claims to have discovered a dirty weapon, which is radioactive and is to be used against the American population. Actually, it's a battery-operated alarm clock, found in a landfill. When the alarm goes off, it switches on the radio and becomes radioactive. He is scaring the life out of Americans in order to pass his Homeland Security Bill.

Tension between Pakistan and India has been defused. Originally, Pakistan airplanes were going to Bombay, but decided it would give Islamabad name. (Read this again slowly and out loud.)

The former king of Afghanistan has declined the monarchy because of his age, 87. He is trying to decide whether to fight Mike Tyson, or run for Pope. I have lots more amusing things to write, but in my contract, it says I have to mention the stock market occasionally. Can't think why.

Two weeks ago, I wrote to my loyal subscribers, "GET OUT OF THE MARKET AND STAY OUT," in bold capital letters. The next day, the market went into free fall straight through the supposed 1,300 support level. I write unequivocally and most of the time I am right. But even if I am not, it is better than the technical analysts who say, "If the index rises above 1,350, it will probably go to 1,380; if it falls below 1,300, it will probably drop to 1,260." They are not expressing any opinion, just hedging their bets. Such statements are meaningless, and as I have written before, the Phisix does not have support and resistance levels like stocks, because nobody buys or sells the index.

The same thing applies to the comments that accompany my support and resistance levels on the 50 most active stocks. Against AJO, I consistently wrote terrible, then appalling, and after it fell from 75 centavos to 25 centavos in a short time, I deleted it altogether. I believe that investors should be told the truth, even if it is not what they want to hear. One lady sent me an email saying she had bought BW at P104, it is now 47 centavos under the symbol FAIR. I asked her if she believed in reincarnation and I have not heard from her since. The reason I am so blunt is that I am trying to hammer home the 10 commandments, especially the one that says **use stop losses**. Everybody makes mistakes, including me, but so long as you cut your losses quickly, no great harm will befall you, and when the market recovers, you still have most of your capital intact. If any reader does not have a copy of the 10 commandments, I will email it to you free.

I try never to get involved in politics but I was disgusted at the senators who, in order to further their political ambitions, are blocking bills that are vital to the nation's recovery. The government is overspending and has spent its six-month deficit target, plus P6 billion, in only four months. And they are borrowing like crazy because they know that interest rates are going to rise. The Bangko Sentral keeps threatening to reject higher bids but end up accepting them because it has no choice. None of this is good for the stock market, hence my current lack of interest. The best that we can hope for is that companies will produce better results in the second quarter than they did in the first. However, we are not going to get any announcements until mid July so the market will be in a vacuum until then.

In Wall Street, the telecom sector is taking a beating worldwide. Nokia has taken a knock and is at a four-year low. France Telecom is very depressed but that may be due to France being knocked out of the World Cup in the first round. The massive spending on 3G, no relation to the G7, has not paid off in America and Europe, only in Japan and Korea. People are not prepared to spend $500 for a handheld computer that can access a printer from 10 feet without wires and take photographs. They want one, which makes good coffee and regulates the temperature of your bathtub when you wake up. As for the biotech sector, down 41 percent in one year, it acts as a drug on the whole market. As always, you can contact me, mrbearbull@hotmail.com.

Market sees technical rebound

From page A1

some stocks, especially those that were left behind in the recent rally.

Among the losers last week were DMCI Holdings, Digital Telecommunications (Phils) Inc., ABS CBN Broadcasting Corp., Bank of the Philippine Islands, PLDT, Ayala Land Inc., Ionics Corp., JG Summit Holdings, Globe Telecom, Ayala Corp., La Tondeña Distillers Inc.

"Start revisiting good entry windows in fundamentally sound issues that have been cheapened by the wave of foreign selling. It might be timely to consider the reasons why market barometers declined significantly at present levels, " it said.

The immediate support of the Phisix is at 1,250, secondary at 1,200 while the resistance is at 1,300-1,330, it said.

AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said global and domestic economic uncertainties could continue to temper investor appetite on local stocks.

"We are now in a period when there will be a vacuum in terms of leads. Most market players will be adopting a wait-and-see attitude as share prices drift. We test and retest important support levels and then be in position for a nice year-end rally," Vistan said.

"In the meantime, investors are still advised against going way ahead as the global economic picture remains murky. Bottoming markets can go anywhere for very long periods of time. To avoid tying up their money, investors are advised to wait until there is a catalyst to change the market direction before becoming aggressive," he said.

On the domestic front, Vistan said macroeconomic concerns edged out the PLDT deal as the major market mover last week.

"The government's fiscal deficit is growing not only in size but also in terms of concern. A higher than expected budget deficit may force the government to crowd out private borrowings and push up domestic interest rates. It can also affect the country through our credit ratings, which puts a heavy weight on the government's ability to source the funding for their expenditures," he said.

Last week, the International Monetary Fund expressed concerns that the government might overshoot its deficit target this year unless drastic measures are taken.

Vistan also said recent developments in the United States might not bode well for local stocks. Last week, the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped to its lowest levels since November last year.

"Just when investors were looking for a turn in the US economy, the report on US May retail sales (which saw its sharpest decline since November) sparked concern that a pull-back in US consumer spending could leave it too weak to boost global economies," he said.

Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, June 14, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	20	20	20	20	795,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53.5	54	53.5	54	2,743,600
China Banking Corp.	625	625	625	625	40
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	37	36	36.5	55,000
First E-Bank Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	193,000
Global Business Bank Inc.	75	75	68	68	200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	37	37.5	36.5	36.5	179,100
Philippine National Bank	38	38	37.5	38	17,000
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	28.5	26.5	28.5	1,200
Security Bank Corp.	14.25	14.25	14	14	2,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	23	23	22.5	23	44,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1370	1370	1370	1370	570
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1105	1105	1100	1100	420
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	26	26	26	26	15,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.65	0.65	3,610,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	645	645	645	645	100
Piltel	0.36	0.37	0.35	0.36	2,010,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	60,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	412.5	412.5	410	410	24,490
Ivantage Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	50,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	33,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	23	24	23	24	4,000
Manila Electric Co. B	36	36.5	35.5	36	326,700
Petron Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.72	2,427,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.58	1.62	1.58	1.62	112,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	10,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	293,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	450,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	125,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.7	80,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	7,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.5	724,900
Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	19	19	19	19	20,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	50,000
RFM Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.08	535,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48.5	47.5	48.5	89,500
San Miguel Corp. B	56.5	57	56	56	44,400
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Universal Robina Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	11,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	406,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	234,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	40,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.7	2.65	2.7	35,000
Bagulo Gold Holdings Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9	9	9	9	4,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.51	1,450,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	5,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	23	23	23	23	52,100
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.15	0.22	0.15	0.22	80,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	250,000
Ionics Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.66	45,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.017	0.017	0.014	0.014	15,400,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.018	0.018	0.015	0.015	3,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.77	0.78	0.77	0.78	340,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	1,150,000
Music Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	3,800,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	160,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.3	9.3	6,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	520,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	50,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	26.5	26.5	25.5	26	1,074,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series H	10	10	10	10	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.9	6.1	5.9	6	7,455,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	490,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	540,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	800,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.55	2.55	2.5	2.5	1,335,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	1,000,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	200,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	300,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	4,196,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	400,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	1,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	20,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.038	0.038	0.037	0.038	11,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	260,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	730,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	10,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,010,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	720,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	4,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.003	0.003	57,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	550,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000

CURRENCIES

June 14, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.060333	1.000000	50.4920
Japan	Yen	0.008491	0.008008	0.4043
United Kingdom	Pound	1.560704	1.471900	74.3192
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.135943	0.128208	6.4735
Switzerland	Franc	0.678049	0.639468	32.2880
Canada	Dollar	0.688930	0.649730	32.8062
Singapore	Dollar	0.593691	0.559910	28.2710
Australia	Dollar	0.604179	0.569801	28.7704
Bahrain	Dinar	2.812704	2.652661	133.9382
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.282763	0.266674	13.4649
Brunei	Dollar	0.592034	0.558347	28.1921
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000121	0.000114	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.025132	0.023702	1.1968
UAE	Dirham	0.288722	0.272294	13.7487
Korea	Won	0.000871	0.000821	0.0415
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.943100	47.6190
Argentina	Peso	0.305571	0.288184	14.1158
Brazil	Real	0.397427	0.374813	18.9251
Denmark	Kroner	0.134441	0.126791	6.4019
India	Rupee	0.021666	0.020433	1.0317
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.279035	0.263158	13.2874
Mexico	New Peso	0.109970	0.103713	5.2367
New Zealand	Dollar	0.520511	0.490894	24.7862
Norway	Kroner	0.134889	0.127214	6.4233
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017673	0.016667	0.8416
South Africa	Rand	0.103573	0.097680	4.9321
Sweden	Kroner	0.109365	0.103142	5.2078
Syria	Pound	0.020689	0.019512	0.9852
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.031260	0.029481	1.4886
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000902	0.000851	0.0430

Gokongwei . . .

From page B1

taipan's covetous hands from First Pacific's investments that the Filipino executive engineered. Gokongwei's offer will have to hurdle legal questions and the possibility of Pangilinan's group matching or bettering the taipan's bid.

The Inquirer sources stressed that Gokongwei has yet to reveal his long-term plans on the PLDT stake. They said the odds were on Gokongwei using PLDT as a means to boost the sale price for his Digital Telecommunications Corp. (Digitel) which he has long wanted to dispose.

The Inquirer sources insisted that PAL was the main target of Gokongwei who has been successful in building his upstart airline as an industry contender through aggressive pricing and marketing strategies.

The Inquirer sources also noted the parallelism in PLDT and PAL—both are dominant players in their respective sectors and both are heavily indebted. Also, the Inquirer sources said that it has been an open secret that Tan was willing to jettison his PAL interests for the right price. Two years ago, amid the brickbats from critics of his closeness to President Estrada, Tan was reported to be selling his stake for $700 million.

G&W clubshares
SEC License Broker No.: A-17597
As of June 17, 2002

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A"	1,700,000	-
Alta Vista	-	300,000
Baguio Country Club	740,000	700,000
Camp John Hay	280,000	270,000
Capitol Hills Golf & CC A/B*	130,000	150,000*
Canyon Woods	190,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club	100,000	-
City Sports Club	830,000	Pls. Call
Club Filipino	180,000	-
Eagleridge "A"/"C"	340,000/600,000*	330,000
Eastridge	280,000	-
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fairways & Blue Waters	500,000	-
Fontana D/C	90,000/140,000	Pls. Call
Forest Hills "A"	230,000	200,000
Manila Golf	-	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,800,000	2,700,000
Makati Sports Club	250,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	650,000	700,000*
Metropolitan Club	100,000	90,000
Mimosa Golf Ind.C3*	140,000/300,000*	260,000*
Mt. Malarayat	350,000	-
Orchard Golf A/C*	250,000	230,000/340,000*
Phil. Columbian	80,000	60,000
Puerto Azul "A"/"B"*	100,000/150,000*	-
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	200,000	-
Riviera Golf "A"/"C"*	190,000/450,000*	-
Riviera Golf "B"	250,000	-
Rockwell	350,000	325,000
Royale Tagaytay A/C	90,000/140,000	-
Sherwoods	105,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht Club "Corp"	330,000	-
Subic Golf	160,000	-
Sta. Elena Golf "A"	1,700,000	1,625,000
Tagaytay Country Club	430,000	420,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	870,000	800,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	770,000
Valley Golf & CC	-	250,000
Valle Verde (Indv.)	150,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	7,200,000	6,500,000

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		ASKED PRICE	BID PRICE
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2	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	800,000 00	-
3	CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB	-	100,000 00 all in
4	CALIRAYA SPRING	please call	-
5	CLUB FILIPINO	-	190,000 00
6	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	500,000 00	420,000 00
7	EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB	200,000 00	-
8	FONTANA "D"	70,000 00	-
9	FOREST HILLS "C"	-	250,000 00
10	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	-	250,000 00
11	MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind)	-	11,000,000 00
12	MANILA POLO CLUB	-	2,700,000 00
13	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	630,000 00	-
14	METRO CLUB "A"	100,000 00	-
15	MIMOSA (Ind)	125,000 00	-
16	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	35,000 00	-
17	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	220,000 00	-
18	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	275,000 00	Please call
19	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	-	250,000 00
20	PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	80,000 00	-
21	PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB "A"	100,000 00	-
22	PUNTA FUEGO	650,000 00	-
23	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000 00	-
24	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000 00	-
25	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "B"	250,000 00	-
26	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "C"	350,000 00	-
27	ROCKWELL	550,000 00	-
28	SHERWOOD HILLS "A"	100,000 00	-
29	SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	190,000 00	-
30	SPA & LODGE	870,000 00	-
31	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	-	1,600,000 00
32	SPLENDIDO	-	Please call
33	SUBIC YACHT CLUB (Ind)	200,000 00	-
34	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB	900,000 00	-
35	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	730,000 00
36	THE COUNTRY CLUB	2,800,000 00	Please call
37	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	165,000 00	-
38	VALLEY GOLF CLUB	-	250,000 00
39	WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	7,000,000 00	-
40	OTHERS	Please call	-

PLAYING RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE

ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB	P 30,000 00	TAGAYTAY GOLF CLUB	40,000 00
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB	free rental	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	40,000 00
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	20,000 00	VALLEY GOLF CLUB	15,000 00
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB	20,000 00	WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	80,000 00
MANILA SOUTHWOODS	30,000 00	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB	20,000 00
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	80,000 00	OTHERS	Please call

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Asst. Treas. / Comptroller
or call
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Legaspi Village, Makati City
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E-mail address: fvdr@info.com.ph

GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of June 17, 2002

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,600,000	1,650,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	Please Call	2,000,000
Baguio Country Club	700,000	740,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	70,000	100,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	100,000	110,000
Camp John Hay	250,000	300,000
Canlubang	500,000	600,000
Canyonwoods	Please Call	200,000
Capitol Hills	-	120,000
Celebrity Sports Club	175,000	200,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	230,000	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	250,000	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	250,000	280,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	225,000	280,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	15,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	Please Call	14,000,000
Manila Polo	- 2,750,000	2,850,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	700,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	-
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	120,000
Montemar (Individual)	30,000	40,000
Montemar (Corp)	50,000	-
Mt. Malarayat	-	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	190,000	220,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	300,000	Please Call
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Quezon City Sports Club	190,000	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	Please Call	550,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	100,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,625,000	1,800,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,000,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	300,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	390,000	450,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	740,000	850,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	-	180,000
Valley Golf	270,000	350,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,800,000	Please Call

PLAYING RIGHTS (Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	25,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

For more information, please call:
ALABANG 850-8223 • Fax 772-1817
MAKATI 840-1761 • Fax 894-3021 / 750-7894
or e-mail at: ggashare@mozcom.com
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268 Kalentong Street, Mandaluyong City

SELLING:		BUYING:	
Alabang A/B	1.650M	Subic Yacht (Indv)/Corp	170/330
Baguio Country Club	740,000	Tagaytay Midlands	800,000
Camp John Hay Golf	280,000	Tagaytay Highland Golf	850,000
Canlubang Golf	600,000	Wack Wack	6.350M
Canyon Woods	170,000		
Capitol Hills	110,000		
Celebrity	180,000		
Club Filipino	220,000		
Eagle Ridge A	340/550,000		
Fairways & Bluewaters A3	1M		
Fontana A/B/C/D	Pls. Call		
Manila Golf Indiv. & Corp	Pls. Call		
Manila Southwoods A/B	630/Pls. Call		
Makati Sports "A"/B	250,000/280		
Metropolitan "A"	100,000		
Mimosa Indv./Corp. C3	135,000/275,000		
Mt. Malarayat A/Corp	350,000/450,000		
Orchard "A"/B/C	205/250/250		
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call		
Puerto Azul	100,000		
Quezon City Sports	210,000		
Rockwell Club	380,000		
The Country Club	2,800,000		
Sherwood	100,000		

Other shares & free playing rights available

Connie Ang
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Valle Verde 13M, Valleygolf 5000m2+16M,
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	SELLING AT	BUYING AT	Last Date at Same Asked Price
1. ALABANG "A"	1,700,000	—	—
2. BAGUIO CC	CALL NOW	—	—
3. CAMP JOHN HAY	300,000	250,000	—
4. CANLUBANG GC	625,000	—	Dec 90
5. CAPITOL HILLS	130,000	—	July 91
6. CC AT TAGAYTAY	—	CALLNOW	—
7. CELEBRITY CLUB	CALL NOW	—	Nov 96
8. EAGLERIDGE "A"	—	300,000	—
9. EAGLERIDGE "B"	500,000	—	—
10. FOREST HILLS "B"	300,000	—	July 00
11. MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	12,000,000	—	Dec 84
12. MANILA POLO CLUB	3,000,000	2,750,000	—
13. MLA SOUTHWOODS "A"	670,000	—	<Pre-sell
14. MLA SOUTHWOODS "B"	—	730,000	—
15. ORCHARD "A"/"C"	CALL NOW	—	<Pre-sell
16. PUNTA FUEGO	CALL NOW	—	May 95
17. QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	—	210,000	<Pre-sell
18. RIVIERA GCC "A"	CALL NOW	170,000	Oct 95
19. STA. ELENA "A"	1,800,000	—	—
20. SUBIC BAY YACHT (CORP)	CALL NOW	—	—
21. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	—	820,000	—
22. TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	—	780,000	—
23. THE COUNTRY CLUB	CALL NOW	—	—
24. VALLEY GOLF	—	250,000	Mar 98
25. WACK WACK GOLF	CALL NOW	6,875,000	

AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

ALABANG CC "A"	25,000	RIVIERA CC "A"	15,000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	20,000	STA. ELENA "A"	65,000
EAGLERIDGE "A"	10,000	TAGAYTAY H'LANDS	35,000
MANILA GOLF (LESSEE)	CALL NOW	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	30,000
MIMOSA (INDIV)	5,000	WACK WACK GOLF	90,000

A partial list of SHAREXCHANGE Clubs

CLUB OFFERED	IN EXCHANGE FOR	CLUB OFFERED	IN EXCHANGE FOR
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From page B5

Q: What is your outlook on the Philippine financial markets?

A: We don't see significant inflation pressures that may affect the financial markets. We see inflation staying at where it is now, about 3.5 percent and because of that, we think there is no immediate pressure for the Central Bank to follow the Fed if it decides to raise the US interest rates in August. We think Philippine interest rates still stay at where they are now. If there will be any increase, we don't think it will come before the 4th quarter. Interest rates may have to rise a little bit in the first half of 2003 but there's no great pressure to boost interest rates because inflation is under control.

The strong peso helps the central bank to keep inflation under control. So we will only see gradual interest rate hike, say 50 basis points over the next year or so. That's the good news. In terms of the peso, I think most of its appreciation has probably come through now. The outlook for the peso depends on the yen. As I said, the yen in the next few months would likely be stable at 124-127 to the dollar. In that context, the peso may strengthen a little bit more and may get to 48.50 to 49 to $1 over the next three to six months, but I think that will be the limit. Exporters will complain and I think the central bank will support their complaint. But if you roll the story forward, if we're right about the yen falling down, then the peso will fall as well. So if you ask me where the peso will be by May next year, I'd say it will be nearer 50 than 49 to $1.

Q: What about risks arising from Latin America? Would they continue to affect the Philippines?

A: The biggest risk is Brazil. There's a presidential election happening in October 2002 and the markets are very uncertain as to who the new president will be and what his policies will be. Brazil is particularly important because it is a big issuer of emerging market debts. It accounts for about 20 percent of the emerging market debts. Brazilian assets are being sold off because of the uncertainties.

The characteristic that the Philippines shares with Brazil is that both countries have high public debts. That worries investors. That's the concern in the Philippines. The budget deficit was overrun in the first quarter and foreign investors are concerned about this. I don't think that was a disaster because it's helping the economy at a time that the economy was quite weak. But I do think this is important because the government did quite well in 2001 in terms of meeting fiscal targets and that boosted investor sentiment towards Philippine assets. I think it's quite important that for the rest of the year, the government must bring back the budget deficit back on target.

That's the challenge but there's a good prospect that the government will do that. President Macapagal-Arroyo has been very good in terms of her economic policies and so I'm confident that the government will make an effort to bring it (deficit) down.

Q: Do you share the view that the entry of China into the World Trade Organization is a big threat to the Philippines and other Asian emerging markets?

A: I think it's a threat but it's also an opportunity. Clearly, China is a very efficient producer of a wide range of manufactured goods. In that aspect, it will be a big challenge to the Philippines, particularly in the electronic sector. The challenge to the Philippines is to develop its products into the higher order. It's all about international competitive advantage.

The second challenge is to make sure that the Philippines can exploit the market opportunities that China presents, the tremendous opportunities to export to China. One of the interesting things about the economic pick-up in the rest of Asia is that yes, it's being helped by the pick-up in the US but it's also being driven by exports to China. China is becoming an engine that is pulling the Asian region out of recession.

Q: What can the government do?

A: The government can help in making industries more efficient in high value added (production) products. Also, it can boost domestic demand. In terms of a development model, traditionally, Asia has been export-oriented.

It has to change and be more balanced. It should evolve into something where, while the exports stay important, domestic demand will also be important. It has to be domestically focused but that's in the context of still being open to international forces and direct foreign direct investments. The government should focus not only on manufacturing but also services.

Q: Is the pace of structural reforms still a big concern for investors?

A: It's a very real problem and it limits the long-term growth potential of the Philippines as well as other countries in the region. There have been a lot of reforms as a result of the crisis.

In terms of restructuring banks' NPLs (non-performing loans), Philippine NPLs are still 15-20 percent of total loans. The banks are reluctant to lend. There are still a lot more to do.

The second area is to get the debt numbers down. It's really about fiscal reform, boosting tax reforms, boosting tax revenues and make them a little bit more efficient. If you cut the debt-to-GDP (gross domestic product) ratio, that means that over the long-term, interest rates will come down and if interest rates are down, domestic investments will pick up. An economic growth target of 4-5 percent can't still be achieved on a medium- to long-term basis. A 3 to 4 percent (GDP) growth seems to be more realistic on a sustainable basis, but it is not enough. You need higher growth, structural reforms and more reforms on the fiscal side.

The Philippine government has been putting in the right places the right policies needed although at a slower pace than what the investors like.

Handa na rin namin kayong pagsilbihan sa ...

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Pasay City

Census Serbilis Center
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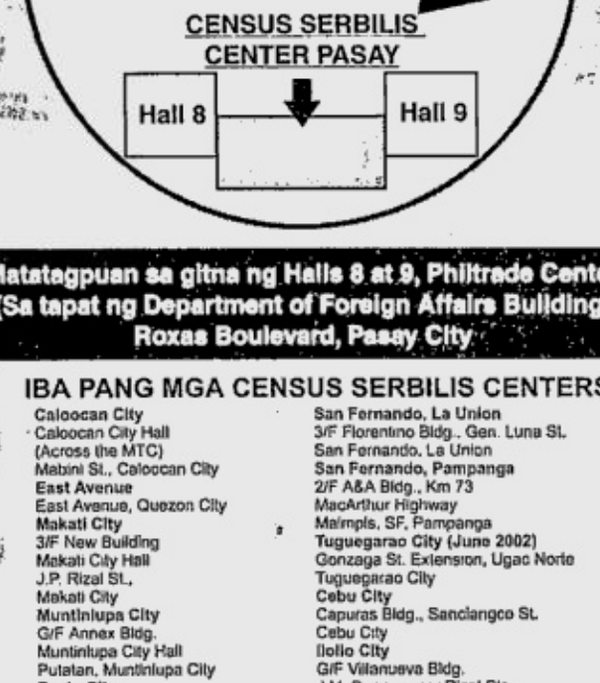

Matatagpuan sa gitna ng Halls 8 at 9, Philtrade Center
(Sa tapat ng Department of Foreign Affairs Building)
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

IBA PANG MGA CENSUS SERBILIS CENTERS:

Caloocan City
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(Across the MTC)
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East Avenue, Quezon City
Makati City
3/F New Building
Makati City Hall
J.P. Rizal St.,
Makati City
Muntinlupa City
G/F Annex Bldg.
Muntinlupa City Hall
Putatan, Muntinlupa City
Pasig City
G/F Pasig City Hall, Pasig City
Baguio City
3/F Juniper Bldg., A. Bonifacio St.
Baguio City
San Fernando, La Union
3/F Florentino Bldg., Gen. Luna St.
San Fernando, La Union
San Fernando, Pampanga
2/F A&A Bldg., Km 73
MacArthur Highway
Malmpls, SF, Pampanga
Tuguegarao City (June 2002)
Gonzaga St. Extension, Ugac Norte
Tuguegarao City
Cebu City
Capuras Bldg., Sanciangco St.
Cebu City
Iloilo City
G/F Villanueva Bldg.
J.M. Basa corner Rizal Sts.
Iloilo City
Butuan City (June 2002)
1/F Acerado Bldg.
Achoa Avenue, Butuan City
Cagayan de Oro City
3/F Lantoria Bldg.
#77 Julio Pacana St.
Cagayan de Oro City
Davao City
2/F Mintrade Bldg.
F. Bangoy cor. Monteverde Sts.
Davao City

NSO-CRS

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3 & 5 - YEAR
RETAIL TREASURY
BONDS

ISSUER
Republic of the Philippines

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BPI Capital Corporation
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PCI Capital Corporation
Tel No. 840-7000 loc. 2255, 7606, 2229 & 7682

SELLING AGENTS / ISSUE COORDINATORS

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Development Bank of the Philippines
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818-9511 loc. 2436 & 2415

FIRST METRO Investment Corporation
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241-4301 (Bacolod Office)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
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522-0000 loc. 7326

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Minimum Investment Per Tenor:
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RETAIL TREASURY BONDS (RTBs)

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These are Government Securities which are principally intended for retail investors.

2. **Why should an investor invest in RTBs?**
Because the RTBs are issued by the Republic of the Philippines, they are risk free (payment guaranteed), high yielding, tradeable and affordable.

3. **Who can purchase RTBs?**
Any investor who has at least P5,000.00 can purchase RTBs.

4. **Can an investor purchase any tenor of the RTBs?**
Yes, an investor can purchase one tenor (3 & 5 years) or a combination of tenors of the RTBs.

5. **How does an investor participate in the Public Offering?**
The investor fills up an Application to Purchase Form and submits this together with 2 valid IDs and payment to any of the Selling Agents. Additional requirements for institutional investors are copies of Board Resolutions indicating authorized signatories and specimen signatures.

6. **After the Public Offering, can an investor still buy or sell RTBs?**
Yes, the RTBs can be bought and sold at the secondary market at prevailing market prices.

7. **What is an investor's proof of ownership?**
The investor is given a duly acknowledged copy of the Application to Purchase Form with a Confirmation of Sale (COS).

8. **Where can an investor purchase RTBs?**
An investor can purchase RTBs from any of the branches and/or business centers of the Selling Agents.

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

OF

WILLIAM, GOTHONG & ABOITIZ, INC.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Stockholders Meeting of WILLIAM GOTHONG & ABOITIZ, INC. will be held on Friday, 12 July 2002, 2:00 p.m. at the City Sports Club-Cebu, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City.

Agenda of the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Quorum
3. Reading and Approval of the minutes of the Stockholders Meetings held on 24 May and 20 December 2001
4. President's Report
5. Financial Reports and Approval of Financial Statements for the Preceding Year
6. Election of Directors
7. Appointment of External Auditor
8. Other Matters
9. Adjournment

The Board of Directors has fixed 31 May 2002 (as of the close of business of such date) as the record date for purposes of determining the stockholders who are entitled to notice and to vote at the aforementioned annual stockholders' meeting.

When registering your attendance at the aforementioned stockholders' meeting, please present any form of identification, such as company I.D., passport, or driver's license.

Makati City, 20 May, 2002.

EUSEBIO V. TAN
Corporate Secretary

For inquiries regarding change of address and account status, please write or call:

Bank of the Philippine Islands
Stock Transfer Agency
4th Floor, BPI Head Office Bldg.
Ayala Ave. corner Paseo de Roxas Ave.
1200 Makati City
Tel Nos.: 816-9067 to 68
Fax No. 845-5515

WG&A PHILIPPINES

Digitel says it has 20 yrs to pay debts

By Abigail L. Ho

DIGITAL Telecommunications Philippines Inc. said it still had 20 more years to pay the government the balance of a P40-billion debt that it incurred in its 1993 acquisition of some government-owned telecommunications equipment in Luzon.

In a telephone interview, Digitel senior vice president for legal and inter-carrier services William Pamintuan said the P40 billion was payable in 30 years, and that the telecommunications firm had already paid the government around P3.4 billion since 1993.

"The P40 billion is not due today. It's part of a 30-year lease agreement that we have with the (Department of Transportation and Communications). It started in 1993 and, since then, we have already paid P3.4 billion," he said.

Pamintuan was responding to Bulacan Rep. Wilfrido Villarama's accusation that the country's second largest landline provider "failed to settle its government obligation."

"Now, they're offering nearly a billion dollars to buy (the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.) and Fort Bonifacio. They must have the money to settle obligations to the government," Villarama said in a statement that came out in major dailies last week.

He added that the P40 billion "belonged to the people and that Gokongweis prompt payment of the debt will help greatly to fund the anti-poverty programs of the government and push economic growth."

Pamintuan, however, said the government also owed Digitel a certain amount of money, but this amount could not be offset with the balance of Digitel's P40-billion debt.

"We also have claims from the government but we can't offset these with what we have to pay them every quarter. That's the problem," he said. "The government would have to appropriate for this. Right now, we're still not part of the budget."

A highly placed source from the Gokongwei group said the government even offered that Digitel just buy the equipment outright but the telecommunications firm turned this down and said this was not part of the contract signed in 1993.

"There's actually an ongoing negotiation for this to assess the net present value of the lands and the assets. The P40 billion was the value in 1993. But the government has to clear this with the Commission on Audit first," the source said.

PNOC firms up feedstock deal

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINE National Oil. Co. has firmed up a feedstock supply deal for the planned $600-million petrochemical project in Bataan.

PNOC president Thelmo Cunanan said in an interview Royal Dutch Shell's unit in Brunei Darussalam had agreed to provide 20 percent of the petrochemical plant's supply needs.

"(Brunei Shell Marketing Co.'s) commitment to us accounts for about 10,000 barrels of condensate," Cunanan said.

The PNOC chief said the state firm was also in talks with biggest local oil firm Petron Corp. for 30-35 percent of the raw material that the Bataan petrochemical plant would need to produce resins.

The plant is expected to have two units with a capacity of producing 600,000 metric tons a year of the raw material for plastic products.

The first unit is intended to crack naphtha, a by-product of crude oil refining. The second unit is planned to take in other feedstock like liquefied natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas or gas condensate.

Cunanan said feedstock sources from the Middle East would complete the petrochemical plant's supply needs.

He added that PNOC Petrochemical Development Corp. had formed a committee tasked to tap a financial adviser for the firm's participation in the project.

The state firm is bent on keeping a 34-percent stake or a $100-million equity in the project even as it is inviting as many partners as possible.

PNOC hopes to forge a joint venture agreement for the polymer plant by September.

"Our financial adviser will be different from that of the consortium that will be formed," Cunanan said.

Management Association of the Philippines AND BayanTrade PRESENT

Two Days To Go.
Conference Starts On
Wednesday, June 19, 2002
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MAP INTERNATIONAL CEO CONFERENCE

JUNE 19, 2002 MAKATI SHANGRI-LA HOTEL

The Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), in association with BayanTrade, will conduct its prestigious annual management conference June 19, 2002. The conference will be attended exclusively by CEOs and other C-level executives, and has as its focus three central issues. The first of these issues is leadership. What kinds of leaders are required to build Asia's future industry champions? The second issue is the enterprise itself. What qualities will industry-leading enterprises exhibit? The third issue is community, an issue championed by BayanTrade, which builds and connects online communities. What will be the nature of the relationship between the enterprise and the various elements of the ecosystem in which it operates?

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PANEL 1
MANAGEMENT: LEADING THE NEW ASIAN CORPORATION

"Management: Leading the New Asian Corporation," will examine the role executives play in steering their organizations through dramatically changing circumstances towards sustained success. Among the qualities of leadership to be discussed are the role of strategic insight, values and integrity, accountability, and personal commitment to good government.

MODERATOR: Michael Vatikiotis, Editor, Far Eastern Economic Review
PANELISTS: Charles Tseng, President, Korn/Ferry International
Erramon Aboitiz, EVP, Aboitiz Equity Ventures
Nina Aguas, Country Business Manager, Citibank Retail
Clement Wang, Associate Director for Research, National University of Singapore

PANEL TWO
ENTERPRISE: DEFINING THE NEW ASIAN CORPORATION I

Panel Two will define the character of the New Asian Corporation.It will dissect the **yin** of the Enterprise. These are the hard qualities that make enterprises successful, such as organizational efficiency and productivity, emerging business models, new sources of profitability and setting the rules of competition.

MODERATOR: Rex C. Drilon, II, COO, Ortigas and Co
PANELISTS: Brett Decker, Editorial Page Writer, Asian Wall Street Journal
Horace Yuen, Assistant Director, Management Services Agency, HK Government
Roberto De Ocampo, President, Asian Institute of Management
Jonathan Madrid, Executive Director, IAyala

LUNCH PANEL
CHARACTER: DEFINING THE NEW ASIAN CORPORATION II

The Lunch Panel will define the character of the New Asian Corporation.It will zero in on the **yang** of the Enterprise. These are the soft qualities that set it apart from its competitors, such as people, empowerment, governance and transparency, management of change, corporate identity and branding, and corporate citizenship.

MODERATOR: Cha Cha L. Lazaro, Producer and Host, The Probe Team
PANELISTS: Francis Estrada, Chairman, Equity Managers Asia
Chris Leahy, Corporate Finance, Managing Director ,Crosby Limited
Alan Thompson, Regional Director, Stern Stewart Southeast Asia

PANEL THREE
NETWORKS: THE NEW ASIAN ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY

"Networks: The New Asian Corporation, zeroes in on the community issue and will dissect the qualities and structures of the ecosystems in which the New Asian Corporation operates, as well as, the roles of the different players. Among the trends to be discussed are supply chain management (SCM) and inter-enterprise collaboration, customer relationship management (CRM), e-marketplaces, shared service centers, core competencies, and mergers and acquisitions (M&A), alliances, and joint ventures.

MODERATOR: Carol E. Carreon, President and CEO, BayanTrade
PANELISTS: Luis Miguel Aboitiz, V.P., Aboitiz Equity Ventures
Toby Marion, Asia CEO, Thomas Group
Sandy Kemper, President , Global Trading Web

PANEL FOUR
REACHING OUT: SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THE NEW ASIAN CORPORATION

"Reaching Out: Social Responsibility and The New Asian Corporation, zeroes in on the community issue and will dissect issues, such as what the New Asian Corporation owes the community, and how it serves it. Among the issues to be discussed are community building and governance, and private-public sector collaboration to surface during the panel discussion.

MODERATOR: Michael Alan Hamlin, Managing Director, Team Asia
PANELISTS: Michael Vatikiotis, Editor, Far Eastern Economic Review
Victoria P. Garchitorena, President, Ayala Foundation
Gina Lopez, Managing Director, ABS-CBN Foundation

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BIR set to plug tax leakage in ecozones

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue is set to plug a revenue leakage that has allowed companies operating inside the country's special economic zones to avoid paying a 5-percent tax on their gross income.

"The BIR is looking to tighten this loophole given reports that Peza (Philippine Economic Zone Authority) has not been strictly observing the 5-percent gross income tax policy. Once the BIR finalizes it, the DOF (Department of Finance) will approve it," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said in an interview.

This particular incentive, which is unique to Peza, is one of the remaining issues that the DOF and Board of Investments have yet to agree on before they can submit a draft bill on a new set of tax incentives to Congress.

"The objective is to harmonize the BOI and Peza incentives, but the outstanding issue is the 5-percent gross income tax because, if we allow the BOI to offer this, it would tend to pre-empt the government's plan to shift to a gross income tax system," Camacho said.

He said the government was thinking of asking Congress to allow only Peza, for the meantime, to offer the 5-percent tax perk to its locators, while all the other sweeteners would be common to both the BOI and Peza.

The BIR will likely amend an existing regulation on the treatment of the 5-percent gross income tax to plug a P60-billion leakage from corporations that have allegedly been cheating the government, he said.

Senior finance officials said Peza, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and Clark Development Corp. had been collecting fewer taxes from its locators because of the lax implementation of the 5-percent gross income tax policy.

Companies not registered with Peza, Subic or Clark have to pay a 32-percent tax on their net income.

A finance official revealed that instead of collecting the 5-percent tax on gross income, Peza, SBMA and CDC had instead allowed companies under their jurisdiction to pay taxes based on their net income and after numerous deductions that were not provided for in the original definition of gross income.

BIR regulations specify that the 5-percent tax is "imposed on gross income earned and, hence, an income tax in nature and a national internal revenue law in character."

The BIR amended a provision in its rules that specify that "gross income shall refer to gross sales or gross revenue derived from the registered business activities within the ecozones."

The computation was to be "net of sales discount, sales returns and allowances and minus cost of sales, cost of production or direct costs of services (depending on the nature of the business) but before any deduction is made for administrative expense or incidental losses during a given taxable period."

Central bank to raise valuation of non-real estate collateral

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is set to issue a circular this week increasing to 75 percent from 50 percent the maximum valuation of non-real estate collateral to help borrowers without real estate secure bigger loans.

"We are implementing a provision in the General Banking Law that increased the loan accommodations to chattels, intangibles and other personal properties," BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes told reporters.

The General Banking Law provides that "loans and other credit accommodations on security of chattels and intangible properties shall not exceed 75 percent of the appraised value of the security."

The new central bank circular covers chattels and intangible properties, like patents, trademarks, trade names and copyrights. In the case of trade names or goodwill, appraisals will have to be done by independent groups.

"We want to give a greater value to copyrights and trademarks and all other forms of chattel," Reyes explained.

Loan accommodations to other personal properties were maintained at the same ratios.

Government securities, when used as collateral for loans, are usually appraised at face value, while readily marketable bonds and other high-grade securities, including blue chip stocks, are still assigned a value of 50 percent.

The new circular defines a blue chip stock as those belonging to a listed corporation with a net worth of at least P1 billion and with a record of profitability of at least five years.

Exporters target 10% growth rate

A REBOUNDING export sector has set a new double-digit growth target of 10 percent this year following a drastic plunge in sales last year.

Fighting targets for the next two years are even higher at 15 percent in 2003 and 16 percent in 2004.

By then, the sector hopes to have regained lost grounds.

Export sales plunged 15.6 percent last year, resulting in foregone sales of close to $6 billion as a result of a global trade slump worsened by terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

The revised target was far more optimistic than projections made earlier by the government at zero growth for 2002 adjusted to 4 percent soon after the April figure came in.

The new targets were embodied in a brand-new export development plan for 2002 to 2004 approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo early last week in a meeting with the Export Development Council.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II noted that beginning last January, the sector had demonstrated a steady, though slight, improvement.

April saw a leap of 22.4 percent over exports in the same month of last year.

"Neda (National Economic and Development Authority) projected zero growth for this year, but if the export sector keeps up, and this incipient global economic recovery continues, we shall surpass that estimate and achieve more robust growth rate," Roxas said.

Interviewed separately, Philippine Exporters Confederation president and EDC vice chair Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. said: "We can only recover lost grounds if we set higher-than-expected targets. Besides, the plan has undergone one-and-a-half-year of preparation involving most industry leaders who know their own company targets."

Under the plan, Philexport, as the dominant organization of exporters in the country, has been tasked to implement the private sector counterpart towards its realization.

To hit the ambitious targets for double-digit growth beginning this year, the export plan has adopted a product strategy that revolves around industry clustering, This fine-tunes the efficiency of every industry's supply chain flow by linking together interrelated enterprises including their suppliers and buyers.

Clustering also brings sharper focus to government assistance in the establishment of common service facilities including new technology and credit, and encourages the pooling and sharing of resources in both production and marketing.

In the marketing side, the strategy focuses on deeper penetration and expansion of product ranges sold to traditional markets including the US, Japan and Europe and a more aggressive trade offensive in the country's emerging markets in ASEAN and mainland China. ***Abe P. Belena, Philexport News and Features***

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5-month hot money inflow up 11%

By Clarissa S. Batino

FOREIGN portfolio investors continued to pour their money into the local stock and fixed-income markets pushing up the level of net portfolio inflow to $167.3 million as of May, marking a big improvement compared with the net outflow of $13.6 million a year ago.

Data submitted to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas by five custodian banks showed that the level of inbound funds in the first five months went up by 11 percent or by $72.1 million, from $655.9 million in May 2001 to $728 million.

The hot money that went out was lower this year by $108.8 million or by 16.25 percent to $560.7 million against $669.5 million in the same period last year.

In May alone, however, the net inflow stood at only $8.1 million against $62.3 million in April.

Not only was the inflow of $155 million in May lower compared with April's $197.5 million, the outflow during the month amounting to $146.9 million was also higher than the previous month's $135.2 million.

In May 2001, the central bank registered a net inflow of $7.3 million from incoming funds worth $88.8 million and the outbound funds of $81.5 million.

During this period last year, foreign investors were driven out by political problems caused by the May 1 uprising in Malacañang against the Macapagal administration. The riots last year capped the so-called Edsa Tres demonstrations staged by supporters of ousted President Estrada.

Talks of a similar uprising last month could have fueled the decision of some foreign portfolio investors to temporarily take their funds out, said a banking source.

Another source pointed out that the movement of hot money in May was "very disappointing" considering that it was during the previous month that the US pension fund Calpers decided to reverse an earlier decision to pull-out its funds from the Philippines.

While the $15.7 million portfolio investment of America's largest California Public Employees' Retirement System was not exactly large, the fund-manager's influence was extensive and a pullout would have dampened the sentiment of other foreign investors.

Still, the central bank said it was expecting more portfolio funds and foreign direct investments to come as investor confidence in the Philippine government continued to improve.

The BSP also credited the encouraging inflow of portfolio funds for helping boost the country's balance-of-payments position, an economic indicator based on trade, investments and borrowings.

This year, portfolio investments may not be as erratic as the previous years', said the central bank.

Foreign portfolio funds are normally invested in the stock market, government securities, mutual funds and insurance.

Last year, the country recorded a net portfolio inflow of $68.7 million, representing a turnaround from a net outflow of $149 million in 2000.

ICC readies P5-B barangay poverty alleviation program

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INTER-AGENCY Investment Coordination Committee has mapped out a P5-billion poverty alleviation project that aims to empower communities through enhanced participation in barangay governance.

The ICC is also preparing a P2.2-billion project to improve fire protection capability in the National Capital Region, as well as a P1.4-billion program to support the government's agriculture modernization program.

A statement from the National Economic and Development Authority, lead agency in the ICC, said the poverty alleviation project, called "Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (Kalahi)—Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services, "will be implemented for a period of six years starting this year. It will be under the supervision of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The Kalahi project consists of five components: social preparation, mobilization and community organization; capacity building and technical support; seed fund for community development; implementation support; and, monitoring and evaluation, studies and advocacy.

Under the component on seed fund for community development, for instance, the project will provide P300,000 grants to barangays for their anti-poverty projects.

US TREASURY Secretary Paul O'Neill (left) shakes hands with Japanese Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa during a bilateral meeting in Halifax, Canada. G7 finance ministers are meeting to buck up a fragile global economic recovery in the face of sliding financial markets and heightened world tensions. AFP

G7 upbeat on world growth; tension emerges on trade

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia—A recovering world economy and an agreement to leave exchange rates well alone will be a focus of weekend talks of finance ministers from the world's richest economies, but an undercurrent of tension opened up on Friday even as the talks began.

Jolting chances of harmonious meetings on bland, easy-to-agree topics, Canada's new Finance Minister John Manley linked protectionist US farm policies to development issues and cited Afghanistan, a focal point of the United States' "war on terrorism," as a possible example.

It would be difficult, Manley argued, to convince Afghan farmers to grow pulses instead of their lucrative poppy crops, used for opium, while America is subsidizing its own farmers.

"We want these people not producing opium. We want them producing food and selling it into world markets, and then maybe we'll find less of a draw on overseas development assistance and charity from countries like Canada and the United States," said Manley, chairing his first G7 meeting.

The G7 meeting opened amid modest security in the eastern Canadian port city of Halifax, with police watching a small-scale demonstration from behind waist-high barricades.

A couple of hundred protesters, dancing to the tune of a reggae band and led by a piper wearing a leather jacket and a tartan kilt, complained that rich countries care only about their own profits.

But the demonstration was puny compared with those at past international gatherings like the Seattle trade talks in 1999 and a G8 summit in Genoa, Italy, last year. Halifax is small and expensive to get to, and beer, bars and lobster burgers provide a welcome distraction for anyone who gets this far.

Concerns inside the barricades focus more on economic issues, and Japan's finance minister Masajuro Shiokawa said he was worried about sagging US stock markets and the falling dollar, recently trading at 17-month lows against the euro.

But he made clear that his partners in the Group of Seven rich industrialized countries—Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States—were not going to act on foreign exchange rates.

"We are all concerned about (recent) forex market movements," Shiokawa told reporters. "But the (G7) governments do not plan to act on it." *Reuters*

Tyco's new CEO under scrutiny

NEW YORK—Reports of conflicts of interest stalked the interim chief executive at Tyco International Ltd. on Friday, who defended the embattled conglomerate's integrity, and the company said it would resolve its credit woes within six months.

A source familiar with the situation said Tyco is investigating deals involving John Fort, the newly appointed CEO, when he was a board member in 1996 and sold a house in New Hampshire to Dennis Kozlowski when he ran the company.

The probe is looking into whether the house was improperly purchased with corporate funds, the source told Reuters. Fort denied he was under scrutiny by Tyco, and said a probe by US regulators was contained to Kozlowski.

"The SEC is investigating Dennis Kozlowski and issues relating to him," said Fort. "These issues are not going to be financially material to Tyco."

Fort was brought in to run Tyco while it searches for a new leader to replace Kozlowski, who resigned last week a day before he was indicted in New York on tax evasion charges.

Kozlowski is the subject of investigations by New York, the US Securities and Exchange Commission and Tyco itself into whether he and other Tyco executives may have used company funds to purchase real estate and expensive personal items.

But on Friday, Fort found himself the subject of criticism after The Wall Street Journal's online edition reported he was involved in several transactions that raised new questions about conflicts of interest, including the house sale in 1996.

Shares of Tyco, a manufacturer of such products as diverse as garbage bags, medical products and ADT burglar alarms, fell 2.9 percent to close at $13.40 on the New York Stock Exchange.

During a conference call with investors and analysts, it was evident some people have become impatient with Tyco's current leadership. One caller took issue with Fort and the rest of Tyco's board, saying they've been "asleep" and have "abandoned" the company's some 250,000 employees.

Tyco has lost about $90 billion in market capitalization since the year began due to questions about its accounting and corporate ethics, criticisms of its flip-flop on strategy and fears it would be unable to meet payments on its huge debt. *Reuters*

P&G to outsource business services

CHICAGO—Consumer products giant Procter & Gamble Co. said on Friday it is shopping for a partner to handle most of its business services in a cost cutting measure that would be one of the biggest contracts of its type.

The company, whose brands include Crest toothpaste and Tide laundry detergent, will decide by the end of the year on a partner to handle purchasing, information technology and other areas in a huge outsourcing effort designed to lower costs and improve efficiency, said Terry Loftus, spokesperson for Cincinnati-based P&G.

He declined to comment on a Wall Street Journal report that computer services firms Electronic Data Systems Corp. of Plano, Texas, and Affiliated Computer Services Inc. of Dallas are finalists for the contract which sources valued at about $1 billion.

An EDS spokesperson also declined comment. A spokesperson for Affiliated Computer was not immediately available.

But sources close to EDS said the company was vying for the contract.

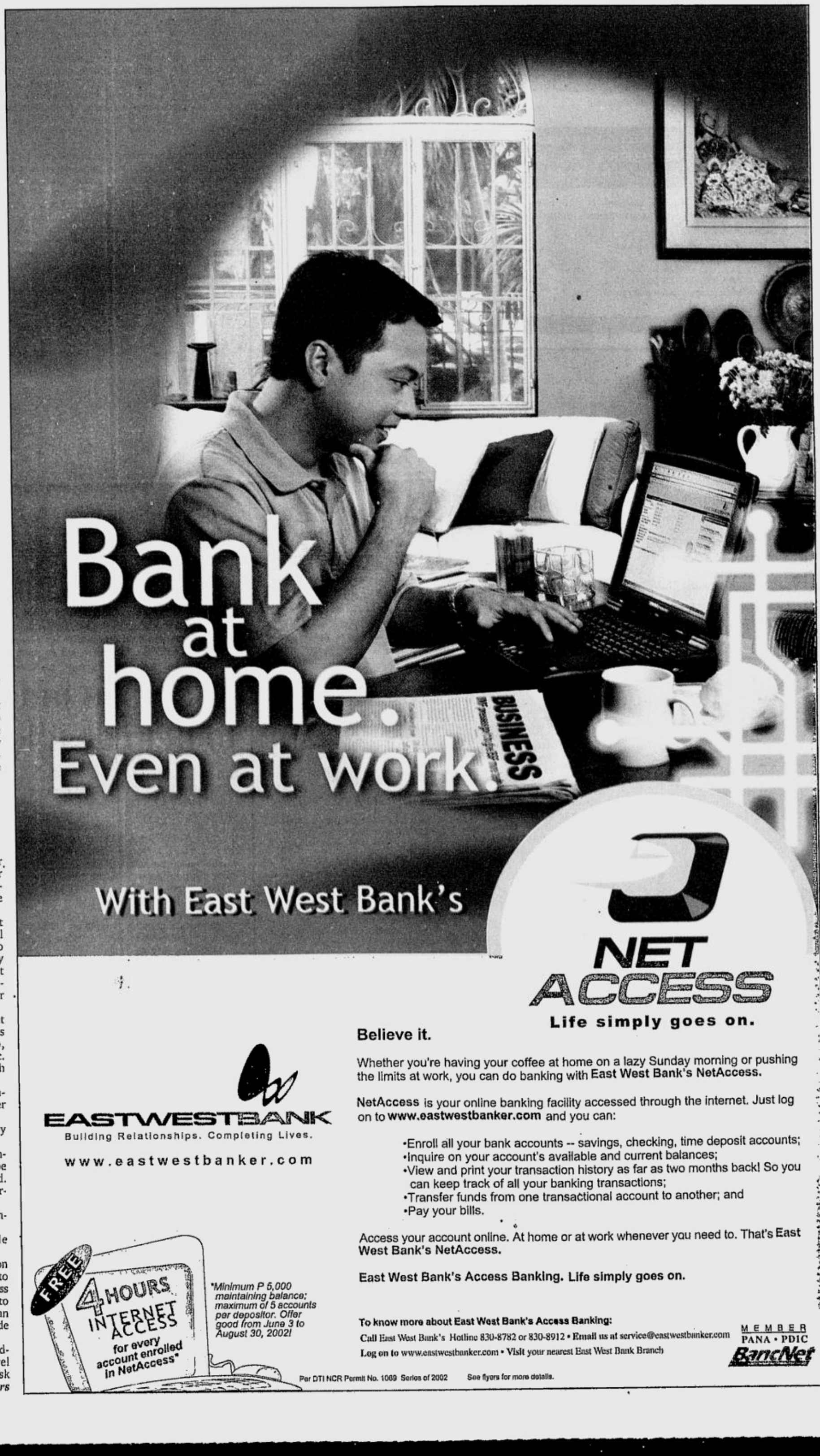
Loftus said about 5,700 of some 7,000 employees in P&G's business services would be transferred to the services company selected. Those retained would manage the partnership and lead some essential functions.

He said a "relatively small number" of employees would lose their jobs.

P&G employs around 106,000 people worldwide, Loftus said.

"Over the past year P&G has been working on a business process sourcing study designed to help us determine how to deliver the business services we need at the best quality and cost to support P&G's global services," Loftus said in an interview. "A final decision has not been made and no specific partner has been named."

Jobs that could be farmed out include administration of payroll and benefits, travel services, facilities management, help-desk support and accounting. *Reuters*



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Wall Street slips as traders continue to look for bottom

NEW YORK—Has Wall Street hit bottom, or is still sliding?

That is the question facing investors here after another punishing week for stocks amid corporate scandals, doubts about the US economic recovery and heightened global tensions.

The Dow Jones industrials fell 1.20 percent for the week to Friday to end at 9,474.21 while the Standard and Poor's 500 shed 1.97 percent to 1,007.27.

The tech-heavy Nasdaq composite lost another 2 percent to 1,504.74.

The past week offered little to optimists as stocks slid to their lowest levels since late last year.

Economic data seemed to show a sluggish US recovery, while an insider trading scandal resulted in criminal charges being filed against the former chief executive of biotech firm ImClone.

And persistent fears of security were highlighted by Friday's deadly bomb blast at the US consulate in Karachi.

Troubling economic data included a report showing a 0.9-percent drop in retail sales followed by a sharp drop in the University of Michigan consumer sentiment index, sparked fears of a weakening of consumer spending, which has underpinned the economic recovery.

"Pessimists and predisposed doomsayers were quick with the judgment that consumers are pulling back again and thereby undermining the most critical link to sustained recovery."

But while DiClemente of Salomon Smith Barney and others contend there is nothing fundamentally wrong with the US economy or corporate America, many strategists nonetheless recommended paring back stocks and taking more defensive positions in bonds. ***AFP***

Management Association of the Philippines AND BayanTrade PRESENT

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Each of these issues will be discussed from three perspectives: competence, character, and contribution in five panels composed of world-class international and local speakers and two plenary sessions.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
ROBERT S. KAPLAN
AUTHOR OF THE BALANCED SCORECARD

Kaplan will deliver the opening and closing keynote presentations for the Manila conference.

For inquiries please contact
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US firms show key signs of recovery, buyers fret

WASHINGTON—A slide in US consumer sentiment overshadowed reports on Friday that showed firms boosting production and slashing inventories, fanning concerns the nascent economic recovery could face bumpy times.

The University of Michigan's monthly measure of the mood of consumers logged a much sharper fall than expected, to a preliminary reading of 90.8 in June from 96.9 in May, market sources said. The survey is based on telephone interviews with about 250 Americans and is released only to subscribers.

Separately, the Federal Reserve said production at US factories, mines and utilities rose 0.2 percent in May—the fifth monthly gain in a row—while the amount of capacity in use edged up to 75.5 percent.

A Commerce Department report confirmed that companies have largely depleted once-bloated inventories. Business inventories dipped 0.2 percent in April, falling for the 15th straight month, Commerce said.

The inventory-to-sales ratio, a measure of how well firms are matching stocks of goods on hand to demand, fell to 1.35 months, its lowest reading on record.

"Clearly, the warehouses, storerooms and shelves are barren and production needs to be ramped up," said Richard Yamarone, senior economist with Argus Research Corp. in New York.

But financial markets, already jittery over an attack on a US consulate in Pakistan, focused on the sentiment number. The Dow Jones Industrial Average, at one point shedding more than 200 points, recovered to close down 28.6 points while the Nasdaq climbed back into positive territory after heavy losses earlier in the session.

US Treasury securities prices moved sharply higher. There are other signs consumers—who helped keep last year's recession mild—may be growing more gloomy. On Thursday, Commerce said retail sales fell by 0.9 percent in May, also a larger fall than Wall Street had expected.

The souring mood of the American consumer coupled with a steady slide in stock markets over the past few weeks prompted Wall Street's top economists to slash the odds of an early rise in US interest rates.

Wall Street had expected consumer sentiment to fall in June, but the steepness of the drop caught traders' eyes.

After slipping into recession in the spring of 2001, the US economy grew sharply in the first quarter. That pace appears to have slackened in the current second quarter.

The household sector has been a bulwark for the economy over the last year, as consumers continued to spend even as businesses pulled the plug on investments in new plants and equipment. But how much longer, and at what pace, the consumer will keep shopping is unclear.

Yamarone said continued worries over further attacks on the United States, the plunging stock market and further revelations about alleged improprieties by company chief executives are all weighing on consumers' minds.

"I don't think the consumer can be counted on to spend at the torrid pace (of the late 1990s)," he said. Others were less concerned.

"It would be premature to draw the conclusion, based on the drop in May retail sales and in early June attitudes, that the consumer is beginning to collapse," said Steve Stanley, an economist Greenwich Capital Markets in Greenwich, Conn., in a research note. ***Reuters***

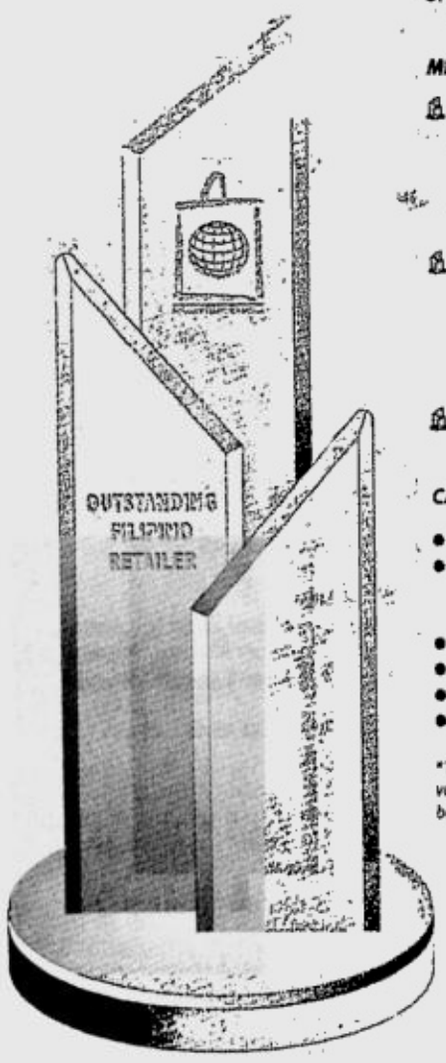
dti DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES
PRA PHILIPPINE RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

The DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY
and the PHILIPPINE RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

"Recognizing the country's retailers who have epitomized the model of a successful retailer in terms of growth and good ethical practices"

2002 Search for OUTSTANDING FILIPINO RETAILERS

The award, now on its 6th year, seeks to encourage Filipino retailers to adopt world class standards and practices and be globally competitive. The award will recognize Filipino retailers who have epitomized the model of a successful retailer in terms of growth and good ethical practices.



MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- This contest is open to all Filipino homegrown retailers (excluding Convenience Stores Services Establishments, Food Establishments, Groceries and Supermarkets).
- The company must have been in operation for a minimum of 5 years except for Most promising Retailer, which must have been in operation for a Minimum of two (2) years.
- The company must be registered with the DTI/SEC and BIR

CATEGORIES:

- FULL LINE DEPARTMENT STORE
- CATEGORY SPECIALIST
  - Fashion
  - Non-Fashion
- MEDIUM SCALE*
- SMALL SCALE*
- MOST PROMISING RETAILERS
- MALL OF THE YEAR (new category)

*These categories are based on annual sales volume: Small Scale - Annual Sales P100 M & below; Medium Scale - Annual Sales P101 M & up

NOMINATION PROCESS

Any organization, company or individual may nominate a retailer for the search. Nomination forms are available at the PRA or DTI Office nearest you.

SUBMISSION OF BID BOOK

Each nominee will be requested to submit a Bid Book that contains the following documents to qualify for the screening process.

1. Company Profile (include list of Key Officers)
2. Duly accomplished Application Form
3. 5x7 photo (interior and exterior) of at least 2 branches of the store
4. Copy of registration papers with DTI/SEC & BIR
5. Tape, brochure, catalogue, etc. and other materials that will support your application

All forms and pertinent documents may be submitted to PRA or any DTI regional office. Only duly accomplished application forms with complete supporting documents will be considered.

Submit your entries now!

For more information, please contact:

PHILIPPINE RETAILERS ASSOCIATION
Unit 2610 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Ave. & Ruby Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No.; 687-4180 * 687-4181 *687-4985 • Fax No.; 636-0825
E-mail: pra@nwave.net • Look for Ms. Evelyn Balmeo Salire, Sec. Gen.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY
2/F, Trade & Industry Building • 361 Sen. Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tel.; 890-4855 * 890-4933 • Fax No.; 890-4858
E-mail: bdtp@dti.gov.ph • Look for Director Meynardo R. Orbeta, BDT

Proudly Sponsored by: INQUIRER SM AYALA CENTER

ARTHUR Andersen's lead attorney Rusty Hardin speaks to reporters outside the federal courthouse in Houston, Texas, after the court recessed for the day in the Arthur Andersen tiral. Federal Judge Melinda Harmon told deadlocked jurors Friday that they could reach a consensus on guilt even if members were divided over the identity of the so-called "corrupt" persuader. AFP

Andersen judge's ruling to help deadlocked jurors

HOUSTON—The judge in the Andersen obstruction of justice trial on Friday gave deadlocked jurors a ruling that could help them find the ravaged accounting firm guilty.

US District Judge Melinda Harmon ruled the 12 members of the jury need not agree that the same Andersen employee illegally persuaded others to shred Enron records in order to find the entire partnership guilty.

The panel finished its ninth day of deliberations, and their second since announcing a deadlock on Wednesday.

"We're very gratified," Assistant US Attorney Andrew Weissmann said after the ruling.

"They have just been given a way out," said lead defense attorney Rusty Hardin.

Hardin asked the judge to declare a mistrial, which she denied. He said the ruling, combined with more deliberations, could be "potentially disastrous."

"We believe continued deliberations would not be fair to the defense and would be coercive to those who may believe we are not guilty," Hardin told the judge.

The ruling was expected to spark a verdict, but Harmon said the jury asked to return to sequester—which set off a burst of weary laughter in the courtroom. The judge ordered the jury to resume deliberations, which have now stretched to 72 hours, on Saturday. The panel still wants to rehear more testimony before deciding the closely watched case.

Harmon's answer to the jury is crucial because she instructed the jury at the beginning of deliberations that it must return a verdict of guilty if they find an agent or agents of Andersen acted knowingly and with corrupt intent.

"If each of us believes that one Andersen agent acted knowingly and with a corrupt intent, is it for all of us to believe it was the same agent," the jury asked Harmon early Thursday. "Can one believe it was agent A, can one believe it was agent B, and one believe it agent C?" ***Reuters***

Big utilities deny knowledge of Enron's trading schemes

LOS ANGELES—Avista Corp. and El Paso Electric Co., both threatened with the loss of power trading licenses, on Friday again denied knowingly engaging in any of the trading schemes Enron Corp. used to reap profits at California's expense.

The companies were among four energy trading firms threatened with the loss of a trading license after the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) said they had failed to cooperate with an investigation into market manipulation.

They were ordered to hand over more information by Friday.

"The documentation provided to FERC today shows that Avista Utilities employees had no knowledge of the strategies Enron may have been pursuing," Spokane, Washington-based Avista said.

FERC launched its investigation earlier this year after releasing Enron memos that detailed colorfully named strategies such as "Death Star," "Fat Boy" and "Ricochet" through which it cashed in on structural flaws in California's newly deregulated power market.

Trading transcripts issued by Enron unit Portland General Electric indicated that Avista participated in "Ricochet" which involved shipping power out of California to surrounding states and then back again in order to maximize profits.

"It is abundantly clear that Avista did not initiate or promote such trading strategies," Avista claimed on Friday.

FERC also warned Portland General Electric, a subsidiary of now-bankrupt Enron, El Paso Electric Co. and Williams Cos Inc. it would revoke their licenses unless they provided more data on their activities in the California market during the state's 2000-2001 energy crisis. ***Reuters***

Wall St. says Fed rate hike may wait until Nov.

NEW YORK—Wall Street's primary dealers say the Federal Reserve may keep interest rates steady until late in the year amid signs of flagging consumer sentiment, sluggishness in retail sales and tame inflation.

Together, the indicators point to delays in a pick-up in the labor market and business investment—two critical factors setting the stage for the central bank to begin raising rates.

A Reuters survey of the 22 primary dealers who deal directly with the Fed found a majority—12 out of 22—see the Fed making its first rate hike in November or later.

The survey also found that chances of a Fed move in September are clearly slipping, and the chance of a hike in August have just about disappeared.

Just nine dealers now expect a quarter-percentage-point hike in September, down from 15 a week ago. Regarding August, only two think the Fed will move rates in August, down from five a week ago.

The chances of the Fed raising rates at its June 25-26 meeting had been dismissed some time ago amid views the US economic recovery was proceeding too slowly to warrant tightening of credit so soon.

The poll was conducted on Friday after the University of Michigan's preliminary consumer confidence report showed a surprisingly sharp drop to 90.8 June—far below the final May figure and the 96.8 figure analysts had expected.

Here is a summary of the results:

• The chance of a rate hike in September have slipped since the last poll a week ago. Nine analysts now expect a 25-basis-point move in September, compared with a total of 15 dealers a week ago.

• Just two of the 22 dealers see the Fed's first tightening occurring at the Aug. 13 policy meeting, down from five in the previous survey, while 20 see no move. The two are calling for a 25-basis-point increase in rates.

• Eighteen primary dealers expect the Fed to raise rates a quarter percentage point at its Nov. 6 meeting. Three expect no action and one dealer made no call.

• By the end of the year, just nine of 22 analysts expect the 1.75 percent fed funds rate to be pushed up to 2.50 percent or higher, compared with 16 a week ago.

Included in the survey were key traders that included ABN Amro, Bank of America, Banc One Capital, Barclays Capital, Bear Stearns, BNP Paribas, CIBC World Markets, Credit Suisse, Daiwa Securities, Deutsche Bank Securities, Dresdner Kleinwort, Goldman Sachs, Greenwich Capital Markets, HSBC Securities, J.P. Morgan Securities, Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch, Mizuho Securities, Morgan Stanley, Nomura Securities Int'l., Salomon Smith Barney and UBS Warburg. ***Reuters***

WTO agrees to step into bitter steel tariffs dispute

GENEVA—The World Trade Organization agreed Friday to step further into the escalating global dispute over a US hike in tariffs on imported steel, approving Japanese and South Korean requests for a panel to rule on the legality of Washington's decision, officials said.

The WTO approved a similar request from the European Union last week. The three panels will be merged into one, WTO officials said.

Japan and South Korea want an independent panel to overrule the March decision by the administration of President George W. Bush to raise tariffs on steel imports by up to 30 percent. The United States says it needs the levies to help the embattled US steel industry recover from a flood of cheap imports.

Japan, South Korea and the EU, who say there is no evidence of an increase in steel imports to the United States, are demanding compensation for damage they claim the tariffs are causing to their domestic industries.

On Monday the 15 EU governments approved separate proposals for retaliatory tariffs on US exports worth up to $888 million if Washington does not compensate them.

Countries from other parts of the world, such as China and non-EU Switzerland and Norway, are also lining up to challenge the US tariffs.

Although last week the United States used a procedural move allowed under WTO rules to block the countries' requests for a panel, the demands are expected to be reconsidered at a June 24 WTO meeting and cannot be blocked twice.

Under WTO rules, countries can impose temporary increases in tariffs, known as safeguards, to give time for domestic industries to restructure to improve competitiveness.

The EU claims the US move breaks WTO rules. EU officials are particularly concerned that there was no overall increase in steel imports—a precondition for enacting safeguards.

The Europeans are demanding compensation for damage they claim the tariffs are causing to their domestic industries.

The panel could take up to a year to rule on the legality of the US tariffs. Either side can appeal the ruling, but a decision by the appellate body would be final.

US trade officials said Washington stood by its position that the tariffs are consistent with WTO rules, saying the dispute settlement panel would rule that the duties are justified.

Last month the United States launched a counter strike in the steel dispute by filing its own complaint against the European Union.

Washington said it wanted to hold consultations with the EU to discuss Europe's decision in March to impose its own steel tariffs of up to 26 percent, following the US tariff hike. Such a notice is often a first sign of a formal challenge and panel request to be filed later under WTO rules.

The EU said its steel tariffs would prevent a feared flood of cheap imports from countries hit by the US protective measures. ***AP***

Likely drop in S. American investments worries WB

WASHINGTON—The World Bank is worried foreign direct investment in Latin America will drop, creating problems for a region already fighting domestic economic and political troubles, a bank economist said on Friday.

The bank's top economist for Latin America, Guillermo Perry, told Reuters in an interview that while the bank is not particularly worried about financial market contagion from the crisis in Argentina, or from pre-election jitters in Brazil, lower investment could cause a problem.

"We are a little concerned about what is going to happen with the levels of foreign direct investment," he said. "So far the figures for Brazil are good, but there is some concern that it may slow down a little bit and there could be a medium-term problem."

Argentina's economy collapsed in crisis at the end of last year. The fallout to other countries so far has been limited. But a clutch of other Latin American countries has problems brewing, prompting some analysts to warn financial institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to keep a close eye to try to prevent a regional crisis.

From Brazil, where the market is nervous about the country's ability to pay its debt and about the leading candidate for October's election, to Ecuador, where talks with the International Monetary Fund about a new loan have stalled, there are reasons to be worried.

Although he acknowledges several countries are facing headaches, Perry dismisses suggestions of a regional economic collapse.

"It is a moment of volatility and turmoil," he said. "But with the exception of Argentina and Uruguay and maybe Venezuela, we are very confident of the rest."

Brazil, which announced on Thursday that it would tap into a $15-billion IMF loan for the first time to try to calm market nerves, is set for a volatile few months, Perry said. But the fundamentals of the economy are strong and he does not expect any significant change in economic policy, whichever candidate wins the election.

"Any candidate that wins will basically continue the kind of economic policy, with some variations of style or emphasis, but the basic direction will be maintained," he said.

"And in the transition Brazil has enough defenses, it has very high reserves."

Brazilian markets have slumped in recent weeks on fears that leftist Luiz Inancio Lula da Silva will win the vote.

Perry also said he was not worried about Ecuador and if the country was facing more difficult circumstances he believed the government and the IMF would be able to quickly pull together a loan deal.

Ecuador is trying win a new $240-million loan from the fund that would help it meet upcoming debt payments. Talks have been through a rocky patch over how much of the revenues from an oil stabilization fund will be used to pay down debt.

"I am not highly concerned with Ecuador. The very high investment that is coming in for the oil pipeline and relatively high oil prices are more than enough to keep the country going and to pay its debt," he said.

"I see a small likelihood that they will have a problem and if they do, we can help."

Perry said talks between Argentina and the international financial community about new loans have not yet reached "cooking point." The country is hoping to win billions of dollars in new funding from the IMF, which would pave the way for loans from the World Bank, to help it out of a deep financial crisis. ***Reuters***

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Philips, Nike forge partnership

ROYAL Philips Electronics and Nike Inc have announced an alliance to merge their athletic and digital technology expertise to develop innovative technology product solutions for sports activities.

The co-branded product offering targets portable audio products for sport, but will eventually include apparel and equipment that combine communications, connectivity and information to motivate athletic activity.

In explaining the rationale for the alliance, Nike Equipment's vice president Peter Ruppe stated, "Athletes want technology that stimulates and enhances the athletic experience. We believe no company or combination of companies has fully demonstrated how technology can accomplish this. By partnership with Philips, we believe we can transform the sportswear, electronic and athletic industries."

Philips Consumer Electronics' chief marketing officer Wil van den Berg noted, "Nike knows athletes and athleticism better than anyone else. By working together, Philips will be able to translate its core expertise in display, connectivity and storage technologies into product solutions that will delight millions of sports-loving consumers worldwide. But, more importantly, the vision of the future that the Nike and Philips brands share should lead to a vibrant new category of products and apparel."

The upshot from the Nike and Philips alliance will include a new line of portable MP3 and MP3-CD players that have been designed for sport through the integration of ergonomics, usability, portability and solid state technology. The range of portable audio players and accessories will be comfortable to wear during sport and fitness activities, can be operated intuitively by feel, rather than sight, and deliver a high-quality audio experience. The products will be available from September 2002 onwards at select consumer electronics retailers and at Niketown Stores worldwide.

Nike and Philips bring unique strengths to the venture. Nike has the expertise in sports and material technology, marketing and innovation. The company transformed athletic footwear with the invention of air technology. Philips is a leading innovator of "wearable electronics" technologies and has a long heritage of technology innovation, especially in the digital arena, as well as intimate knowledge of consumers. Philips originated the idea of wearable electronics in 1995 and has a reputation for introducing high-quality, cutting-edge electronic products.

BERKLEY, MD FINANCIAL INK MOA

Berkley International Life Insurance Co. Inc. (BIL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Berkley International Philippines Inc (BIP), and MD Financial Group, one of the country's biggest insurance brokerage companies, recently signed a memorandum of agreement at the BIP offices located at the Enterprise Center in Makati City. The partnership authorizes MD Financial Group to distribute life insurance products to be provided by BIL. BIL is licensed with the Insurance Commission to develop and sell a full range of insurance products for individual and corporate markets. Its alliance with MD Financial Group is to further cover the expanding market in need of life insurance. Shown is the contract signing with (from left) MD Financial Group board member Danny Medina, MD Financial group president and COO Ramon Gargantos Jr., Berkley executive vice president and chief finance officer Daniel L. Villanueva, and Berkley AVP for marketing Nonoy Kapunan.

AMC COOKING DEMO AT AAV

Health is Life International Group (HeaLinG), the exclusive distributor of AMC (Alfa Metalcraft Corp.) cookware in the Philippines, recently conducted a cooking demonstration at the Ayala Alabang Village as part of the Earth Day Celebration. The cooking demo, which was hosted by health and fitness personality Cory Quirino (second from right), featured no-oil, no-water and no-salt cooking using the AMC stainless steel cookware from Germany. Shown with Quirino are (from left) Chiqui Escareal-Go, HeaLinG executive director, lucky participant Luzonica Pesigan, who won an AMC steamer set, and Angie Rocha, HeaLinG sales support manager. For free AMC cooking demonstrations and product inquiries, call 523-2136, 523-2531, or 0917-8123170.

BITS Clips

Records management seminars slated

INFORRMMS Consulting will hold its next series of Records Management seminars from June 19 to 21 at Legend Hotel, Pioneer Avenue, Mandaluyong City. Resource person is Lourdes Manguerra, an expert in total records management with training in US and Australian records management systems. She has conducted close to a hundred records management seminars for both government and private organizations. For details, interested parties may call InfoRRMS at 633-2086, 687-4103, or e-mail informms@info.com.ph.

Neozep Cold Caravan in town

DO YOU KNOW that the common cold is caused by over 200 types of viruses? It easily tops the list as one of the most highly communicable diseases. The good news is that Neozep, the Total Cold Specialist, goes to your local barangays with the Neozep Cold Caravan to spread a different kind of strain. Armed with stories, puppets, and friendly doctors, this one-of-a-kind program is geared towards educating parents and their children, as well as health workers, on the prevention and management of colds. The Neozep Cold Caravan also offers free consultation, information kits, and samples of Neozep Syrup for Kids and Neozep Tablets to all participants. The Neozep Cold Caravan visits the Manotoc Health Center on June 20, Welfareville 1 Health Center (District Office) on June 23, Welfareville 1 Health Center (Botanical Garden) on June 25, and the Bagumbayan Health Center on June 27.

Entrepreneurship seminar at UST

THE CENTER for Professional Development and Consultancy Services of the Graduate School of the University of Santo Tomas will hold a seminar entitled "Micro Entrepreneurship Management Course (Module 1)" from June 20 to 22 at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex, UST from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The seminar price is P6,000 inclusive of seminar kits, snacks, lunch and certificates. Registration forms are available at the UST Graduate School and at Room 113, Thomas Aquinas Research Complex. The deadline of submission of registration forms is today, June 17. For inquiries, call 731-3101 local 4051.

Finex seminar for SME development

THE FINANCIAL Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex), together with the PDB-FMO Development Center (PDCenter), will conduct a seminar-workshop on "Managing Corporate Finances in Challenging Times" for small and medium enterprises on June 18, 20 and 27 at the Philexport Office, Roxas Boulevard. The seminar-workshop will highlight actual business cases covering the marketing, production, and financial function of SMEs. The program aims to enhance the participants' managerial competencies to effectively manage the financial function of a corporation. The participants are expected to formulate an action plan that would address the various management problems confronting the enterprises. For more information, call Marlene Latuna of Finex at 811-4052 or Emerson Cuyo of Philexport at 831-2023.

Miriam's class opening schedule

MIRIAM College announces the schedule of opening of classes for all levels will be done on a staggered basis to avoid unnecessary confusion and traffic jams. The opening of classes for the Child Study Center will be on June 17 (for Nursery), June 18 (for Kindergarten), and June 24 (for First Step). Grades 1 and 2 will open on June 17, and Grades 3 to 7 on June 18. First and Fourth Year high school opens on June 17, with dismissal at 12:20 p.m. Second and Third Years will open June 18, likewise with dismissal at 12:20 p.m. Regular classes for all high school year levels start on June 19, with dismissals at 3:30 p.m. While the College and Graduate Schools already started classes June 13, the Miriam Adult Education starts its Academic classes June 17, and its Vocational classes June 22.

Rotarians off to Barcelona

A GROUP of Philippine Rotarians will attend the 93rd Rotary International Convention to be held from June 20 to 26 in Barcelona, Spain. First-time convention attendees will be oriented on June 22, while to opening plenary session is on the following day. Barcelona is the second largest city of Spain. Its principal attraction is its rich architectural heritage with the great architect Gaudi, artists Picasso, Dali and Miro associated with the city. Hotels in Barcelona are mostly full during the Rotary Congress. The hotels in the Adam's tour package are confirmed and located in the shopping center. Extension tours to different parts of Europe are available. Call Adams Express Travel at 521-1651/98.

DEFENDING CHAMPS

Members of the University of the Philippines' Debate Society pay a courtesy call on Dr. Lucio C. Tan (7th from left) to express gratitude for the taipan's sponsorship of the team. The 28-member UP delegation left for Thailand via Philippine Airlines recently to defend the country's title as debating champions in the 9th All-Asian Inter-Varsity Debating Championships at Mahidol University and International Colleges. One of the most prestigious tournaments in the region, the English debate competition will feature top debating teams from the best universities in Asia. Tan advised young team members to sharpen their thinking and argumentation skills and to make the country proud by bringing home the trophy.

TAMBULI RESORTS SPECIAL AWARD

Marlon Ungon (second from left), with Rodrigo Soledad, chief security officer, receives the Special Citation Award for Security Guard Year 2001. Ungon is the security guard at Tambuli Beach Club East Wing. Awarding him are Rolando Jimenez, VP for operations and general manager (left) and Marvic Quinain, HRD manager.

SHDA-HUDCC holds national developers convention

THE SUBDIVISION and Housing Developers Association Inc. (SHDA) is the country's national organization of private developers with chapters and membership nationwide. SHDA member-developers are primarily engaged in the production of affordable housing and act as the government's partner in addressing the country's housing need. One of its major objectives is to address issues and concerns of developers and to inform them of developments affecting the industry through various meetings and fora.

In line with this objective, SHDA will once again hold its annual National Developers' Convention in coordination with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC). The activity will be held on June 20 and 21 at the Ballroom of Dusit Hotel Nikko in Manila from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A major real estate event, the National Developers' Convention is an annual gathering of developers nationwide aimed to update and enhance the knowledge of practitioners in the industry on government policies and regulations.

SHDA has lined up several interesting and informative modules during the two-day convention which will be of interest to developers. The workshop sessions will also dissect different issues and concerns of developers affecting the housing industry, with the end in view of coming up with resolutions and agreements at the end of each session. The convention is open to all stakeholders of the housing industry such as bankers, investment managers, architects, engineers, real estate brokers, government functionaries, students, the academe and housing beneficiaries.

Aside from this, the National Developers Convention will likewise feature a trade exhibit that will bring together practitioners in the housing and construction industry. The trade exhibit will also showcase, among others, new and innovative technologies for housing and industries allied to real estate.

Further, a Help Desk to be participated in by key government agencies will be made available to all developers. This Help Desk will enable developers to follow up their pending applications with various government agencies and will also serve as an information desk on current laws, rules and regulations of these agencies.

For further information, call the SHDA secretariat at 899-8275 or 890-0323, or e-mail shda@mozcom.com.

TAMBULI RESORTS SPECIAL AWARD

Marlon Ungon (second from left), with Rodrigo Soledad, chief security officer, receives the Special Citation Award for Security Guard Year 2001. Ungon is the security guard at Tambuli Beach Club East Wing. Awarding him are Rolando Jimenez, VP for operations and general manager (left) and Marvic Quinain, HRD manager.

ProductFILES

Two joys from Joy

ASIDE from being the only tissue paper brand in the Philippines that's consistently soft yet strong enough for various toilet and wiping applications, Joy bathroom tissue now has a more heavenly look at an even better down-to-earth price. Joy hits the shelves of your favorite supermarkets and sari-sari stores in a new and modern pack design that exudes the cloud-like softness that Joy has always been known for. What makes new Joy even more exciting is its lower price—the suggested retail price of Joy is now only P10.50 per roll. The leading tissue brand in the market not only in sales but also in terms of product and packaging innovation as well, Joy is constantly committed to providing you with the best value-for-money without compromising on product quality. Joy (1-ply) and Joy Extra (2-ply) bathroom tissue are currently available in singles, 4-packs, 9-packs and 12-packs.

Go 'bag-to-school' with Jollibee

SCHOOL opening is just around the corner, and kids surely can't wait for moms to get them new stuff and supplies they can show off in school. Let your kids go back to school in style with the new Jolly Trolley, the perfect "bag-to-school" treat for your youngsters. Sturdy and spacious with built-in pockets, the Jolly Trolley is especially designed to carry all your school basics and knick-knacks. This kid-friendly bag can be used as a backpack or an instant trolley for the student's comfort and convenience. The Jolly Trolley comes in two unique designs that feature Jollibee for boys and Hetty for girls. Grab this great bag for only P200 with a minimum food purchase of P50. Bee Happy this school opening with the Jolly Trolley.

PNB PRESIDENT AT NORTHWESTERN MEET

New PNB president Lorenzo V. Tan, MBA '87 (seated, fourth from left), was guest of honor and speaker at a testimonial dinner hosted by his fellow alumni of the Northwestern Alumni Club at the Shangri-la Makati recently. In attendance were (seated, from left) Laura Lim, Bernie Siy, Clarissa Ganzalez, Bunny Fabella, Olive Villafuerte, Bibsy Carballo and Club secretary Czar Yatco. Standing (from left) were Guion Fabella, Greg Navarro, Paeng Javellana, Joel Limjap, Tony Jacinto, Club president Dennis Valdes, Beans Gonzalez, Jay Silayan Jr., Jojo Poe, Dave Balangue, Trix Guerrero, Takeshi Ogoshi, Ted Padilla Jr., Arun Kaul, Dave Valdes, Steve Gan, Francis Laurel and Iking Fernandez.

A PEDESTRIAN with an umbrella studies Tokyo stocks' sharp plunge below the 11,000-point level while a Japanese businessman walks past a Tokyo brokerage while talking on a mobile phone. The benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average closed at 10,920.63 points on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, down 224.21 points, or 2.01 percent from Thursday. AP

Japan gov't committed to cleaning up bad loans

HALIFAX, Canada—The Japanese government is committed to cleaning up bad loans in its beleaguered banking system, Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa said here Friday.

"The Japanese government will continue its efforts to deal with the bad loan problem," Shiokawa said in a meeting with US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, according to a senior Japanese official.

Shiokawa, meeting his US counterpart just ahead of a Group of Seven finance ministers' working dinner, said Tokyo had made progress on the loans since they last met at a G7 gathering in April in Washington.

Japan's gross domestic product (GDP) rose 1.4 percent in the three months to March from the previous quarter, its strongest performance since the first quarter of 2000.

But senior US officials have expressed concern about the bumpy outlook for the world's second biggest economy.

Treasury officials have pressed Tokyo to pursue structural reform rather than intervening in financial markets to weaken the yen against the dollar and thus boost exports.

Shiokawa said Japan was committed to its deregulation efforts, however.

And O'Neill applied no pressure in his meeting with Shiokawa, the senior Japanese official said.

Shiokawa outlined the state of the Japanese economy and was asked for no further explanation. O'Neill simply expressed appreciation after the presentation, the official said.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's administration planned further cuts to tax in investment, research, development and inheritance to stimulate the world's second largest economy, he said.

Japanese budget spending for the fiscal year 2003, ending March 31, 2004, would be less than the current fiscal year, he said, without providing a target figure.

O'Neill offered his analysis of the US economy, telling his counterpart that both productivity growth and the real rate of growth in the United States were high.

"Corporate profits will continue to increase every quarter in the US," O'Neill was quoted as saying, adding that US economic conditions were "much improved" since last fall. ***AFP***

Retailer Kmart posts $1.4-B loss

NEW YORK—Kmart Corp. on Friday posted a quarterly net loss of $1.45 billion as customer traffic dwindled and the discount retailer slashed prices to clear out stores it closed after filing for bankruptcy.

The Troy, Michigan-based company, which faces stiff competition from Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Target Corp., took charges of $758 million in the fiscal first quarter ended May 1 to write down inventory and for liquidation sales.

It also took a charge of $265 million for reorganization items, mainly lease terminations for closing 283 stores.

Shares of Kmart closed up 2 cents, or 2.2 percent, at 93 cents in New York Stock Exchange trade. The company, which currently operates 1,800 stores, has cut 22,000 jobs since its January bankruptcy filing.

James Adamson, who took over as Kmart chairman and chief executive in March following the resignation of Charles Conaway, said the first quarter loss reflected slower store traffic and lower inventory levels as vendors withheld shipments in the early days of its reorganization.

Chief financial officer Al Koch said that with the exception of some electronics vendors, nearly all of Kmart's vendors have resumed shipments, and it has nearly reached its restocking goal.

"We're not pleased with where we are, but it is where we expected to be," Koch said in a conference call.

"The report is a much better interpretation of the real conditions at Kmart, compared to the way the old management seemed to portray the company a year ago," said Richard Hastings, an analyst for Cyber Business Credit LLC.

He said it was likely that some old Kmart management was "too flexible in its interpretation of vendor accounting."

The company's first quarter net loss was equal to $2.88 per share, compared with a year-earlier loss of 48 cents a share, or $233 million.

Excluding special items, Kmart's loss nearly doubled, to $408 million, or 81 cents per share, from $218 million, or 45 cents a share, a year earlier.

Kmart said sales for the quarter fell 8.4 percent to $7.64 billion from $8.34 billion a year earlier. Sales at stores open at least a year—same-store sales, a key measure of retail performance—slid 8.8 percent.

Excluding the stores Kmart shuttered, same-store sales dropped 11.7 percent. ***Reuters***

United, pilots reach recovery plan deal

CHICAGO—Pilots at UAL Corp.'s United Airlines on Friday reached a tentative agreement to take part in a financial recovery plan, including concessions the No. 2 US carrier says it needs to restore financial health.

No terms were released by United or the pilots, represented by the Air Line Pilots Association.

The deal is subject to UAL board approval and, after review by an executive council for the union, ratification by about 9,000 rank-and-file pilots.

UAL chief executive Jack Creighton said earlier this week the airline would apply for federal loan guarantees under the government's $15-billion aid program set up after the Sept. 11 attacks if it can reach agreement with employees on cost cuts. UAL has not yet said how much loan money it wants the government to back.

If the pilots' deal is approved, Creighton said in a statement it will result in significant cost reductions for United while providing pilots with "additional opportunities for participation in United's future growth.'

Steve Derebey, spokesman for United's Air Line Pilots Association unit, said the union leadership will review the plan on Monday. Pilots own about 28 percent of the company after a 1994 employee stock ownership plan.

Mechanics own about 20 percent and salaried and management workers, about 9' percent.

Flight attendants did not take part in the 1994 buyout, designed to foster labor harmony that never quite came about.

UAL reported an industry record $2.1 billion net loss in 2001 and a net loss of $510 million in the first quarter of 2002 as it fought a business travel slump and weak demand for air travel following the Sept. 11 hijack attacks. ***Reuters***

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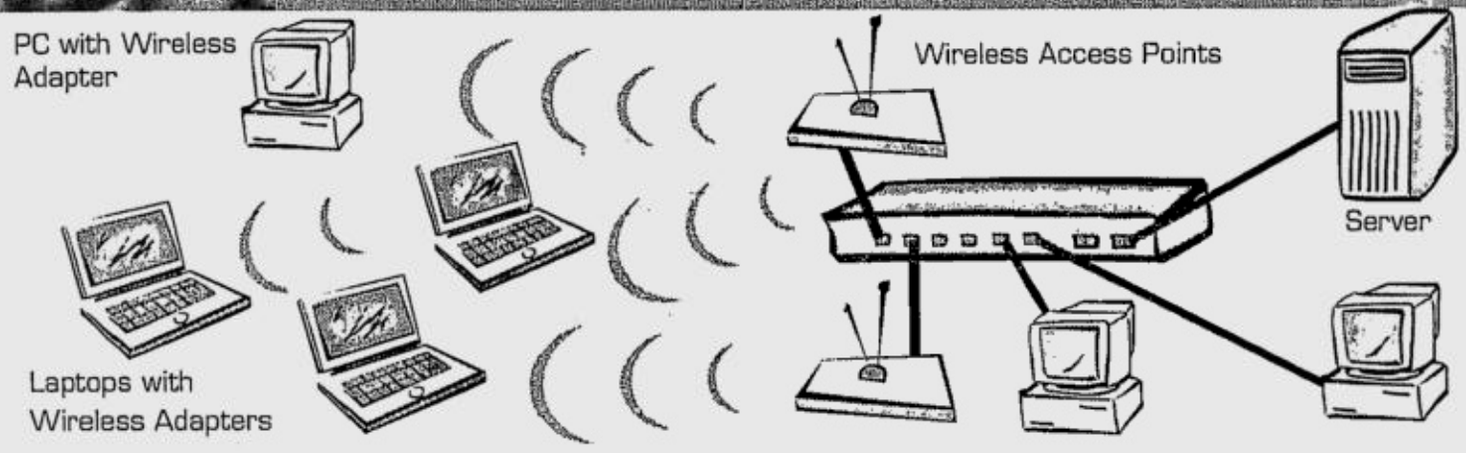

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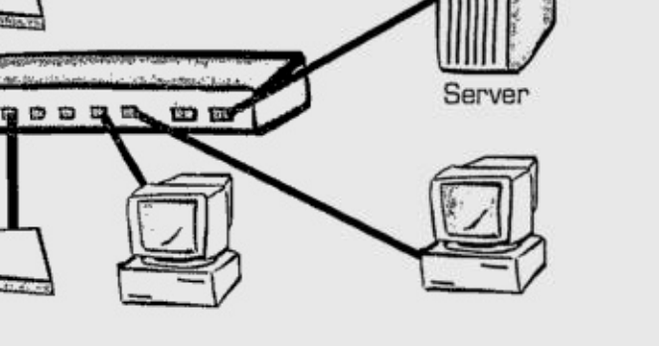

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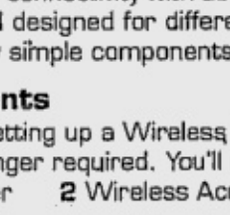

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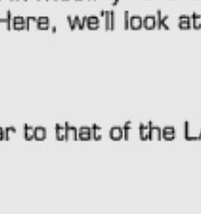

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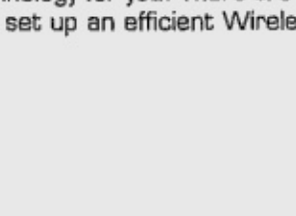

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late Eduardo M. Virgino was extrajudicially settled with waiver of rights by his heirs consisting of "MESALA" Accout - Capital Contribution & Savings Deposit in the total amount of Php 174,428.23 more or less per Doc. 112, Page 24, Book III, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Rommel L. Yap of Pasig City (PDI-June 17, 24, July 1, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Felixberto A. Santos has been judicially settled among his heirs per Doc. 565, Page 113, Book 1, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Frederick F. Vallestero of Rizal (PDI-June 3, 10 & 17, '02)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that Philippine National Bank Certificate No. 465911 under the name of **Maria A. Tabilzo** was lost. If no contest new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-June 17,24,July 1, 2002)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY

O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. (Thank you very much for the graces.)

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Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF MANILA
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
Branch 19

IN RE: PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME/CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN THE CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH OF ARTURO SY CHIU, JR.

ARTURO SY CHIU, JR. Petitioner, — Sp. Proc. No. 02-103502

- versus -

THE CIVIL REGISTRAR OF MANILA, Respondent.

ORDER

A verified petition having been filed by the petitioner, through counsel praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, judgment be rendered ordering the changing/correcting of petitioner from ARTURO SY CHIU, JR to ARTURO SY CHIU CONTRERAS, JR. *alias* ARTURO CHIU CONTRERAS, JR and the name of his father, from ARTURO CHIU to ARTURO CHIU CONTRERAS, in the petitioner's Certificate of Live Birth and or in the Civil Registry of the City of Manila.

Finding the petition sufficient in form and substance, it is hereby ordered that the same be set for hearing on July 11, 2002 at 2:00 PM before this Branch located at Rm 420, City Hall Building, Manila.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner once a week, for three consecutive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation to be selected by raffle pursuant to PD 1079.

The Local Civil Registrar of Manila, through the Office of the Solicitor General, and any person having or claiming any interest in the petition, under the entry the correction of which is sought may within fifteen days from notice of the petition or from the last date of publication of such notice, file an opposition thereto.

Furnish the Office of the Solicitor General, Office of the City Prosecutor and the Local Civil Registrar of Manila with copies of the Petition and of this Order.

SO ORDERED.
Manila, Philippines, May 23, 2002.

(Sgd.) ZENAIDA R. DAGUNA
Judge

(PDI – June 3, 10 & 17, 2002)

National Power Corporation

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID AD NO. PD2002-17

Pre-Bid Conference:	June 26, 2002	2:00 P.M.
Opening date:	July 2, 2002	9:00 A.M.
E-Bidding Date:	July 5, 2002	9:00 A.M.

2002-17-01 **CONSTRUCTION/LUMBER/ELECTRICAL HARDWARE & SUPPLIES (Fascia Board, Plywood, Steel Sheet, Paints, Nails, Sealant, Glass, Welding Rod, Valves, Fluorescent Fixtures, Lamp, etc.)**

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available on **June 17, 2002** upon payment of P50.00 per schedule which is non-refundable & presentation of TIN / supplier's number (DCE).

Issuance of eligibility forms and bidding documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 A.M. For inquiries please call No. 921-25-74. Last day of issuance of bidding documents **June 26, 2002.**

The Corporation reserves the right to rject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI–June 17 & 18, 2002)

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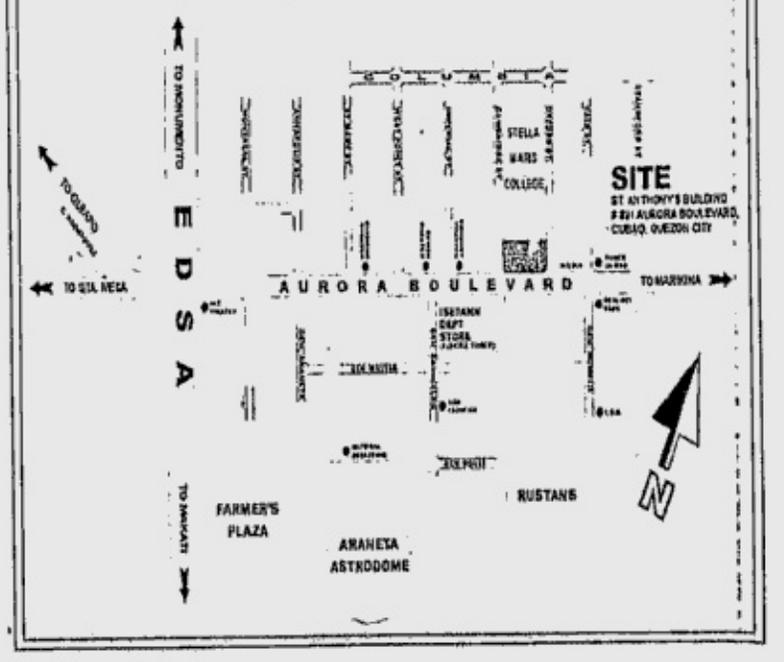

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Former Labor Attaché of Washington, DC., U.S.A. and Geneva, Switzerland

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 15, 2002 at the age of 85.

His loving wife **GREGORIA KAKILALA**; children and children-in-law: **MARIA MINERVA, SOFIA PORTIA, MARIA FILIPINAS** and **DR. PAUL FONTELO, REYNALDO** and **ROSIE, SEMPER FIDELIS** and **ANTHONY BARWICK, JOSE NALDO JR.** and **DR. JULIETTE**; grandchildren: **ALEXANDRA, CASSANDRA, IAN, JOHN PAUL, MARIE CHRISTINE, PAUL VINCENT, XAVIER, MELANIE, CHRISTOPHER, JUDY, JACOB** and **JOSEPH NALDO III** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies at Chapel Love, Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Q.C.

Interment will be at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Silver Spring, Maryland U.S.A.

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
My spirit rejoices in God- my Saviour,
For He has looked with favor on his lowly servant"
Magnificat

ANTONIO NEBRES-YAP TANCHULING

Nov. 3, 1928 - June 15, 2002
(B.S. EM - UP Class '52)

peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 73.

His bereaved wife Ludy;
Children: Pete and Edna; Bepo and Grace;
Nonong and Emily; Arnie and Hazel; Milo and Ging;
Larry and Gay; and Tonette;
his 20 grandchildren and relatives

request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains now lie in state at Stella Maria dela Strada Parish
Katipunan Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City
Wednesday, June 19, 2002 after the 8 A.M. mass.

We Lovingly Remember
the First Death Anniversary of

Marcelina Turqueza Antiporta

Who peacefully joined her Creator on June 17, 2001 at the age of 80.

Please accept our deepest gratitude for all of you who were with us and offered prayers and condolence during our time of loss. We ask those of you whose lives she touched with her generosity for continued prayers.

From the sons, daughters, granddaughter, relatives, and friends of the late **Marcelina Turqueza Antiporta**.

Consolacion (Choleng) Tagalog - Nocon

vda. de ***Raymundo Franco Nocon, Sr.***
of General Trias, Cavite

peacefully joined her creator on June 15,2002 at the age of 95.

Her bereaved grandchildren Carlos and Luis, nephews, nieces, other relatives, and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains now lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels (Chapel N) in Guadalupe, Makati City and will be at the General Trias Poblacion Parish Church at nine o'clock in the morning of Wednesday, June 19, 2002.

Interment will be on Wednesday June 19, 2002 at the General Trias Municipal Cemetery after the two o'clock mass.

In Loving Memory
of our Mama's 12th Death Anniversary

Dra. LUISA LIM-ACO DE LEON

of Biñan, Laguna and Iloilo City
who joined her Creator on June 17, 1990
Masses will be offered at the following churches today, June 17, 2002.

SAN ISIDRO PARISH CHURCH
Poblacion, Biñan, Laguna ..... 6:00 a.m.
FILINVEST HOMES CHAPEL on June 16, 2002
Biñan, Laguna ..... 9:30 a.m.
SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA
Biñan, Laguna ..... 6:00 a.m.
GOLDEN CROSS PARISH CHURCH
San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna ..... 6:00 p.m.
ST. PETER CHURCH
Balibago, Sta. Rosa, Laguna ..... 6:30 a.m.
PARISH OF ST. ANNE
Molo, Iloilo City ..... 5:30 a.m.
DOMINICAN MOTHER HOUSE
Molo, Iloilo City ..... 5:30 a.m.
UNIVERSITY OF SAN AGUSTIN CHAPEL
Gen. Luna St., Iloilo City ..... 6:30 a.m.
DON BOSCO PARISH CHURCH
Pasay Road, Makati City ..... 6:30 a.m.
ST. ANDREW PARISH CHURCH
Nicanor Garcia St., Makati City ..... 6:30 a.m.
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO
Forbes Park, Makati City ..... 6:30 a.m.

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Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
New Renie's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Manila, Pilipinas

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

INVITATION TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will conduct a bidding for the supply of labor and qualified personnel to undertake the daily monitoring and maintenance of the Fire Protection System at the BSP Main Complex in accordance with BSP Terms of Reference of Services which may be secured from the Manager II, Procurement Division II, Administrative Services Department, Room 213, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP Complex, Malate, Manila, Tel. Nos. 5252493/5248229.

Interested bidders/contractors must submit/comply with the following requirements:

1) Must be a licensed specialized "Fire Protection Contractor" issued by the PCAB;
2) Must have a permanently employed registered professional mechanical engineer, with at least 5 years experience in the construction industry;
3) Must have undertaken service contracts of the same or bigger responsibility than the services required within the last five (5) years; and
4) Must possess all the necessary tools, equipment and devices such as gauges, flow meters, threaders and wrenches to implement the service contract.

The above requirements, together with the photocopies of documents listed below (original copies of items 1 and 2 to be presented for authentication purposes) shall be submitted to the Administrative Services Department at the abovementioned address not later than **June 25, 2002**.

1) Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers;
2) Year 2001 duly Audited Financial Statements (Balance Sheet and Income Statement);
3) Business Licenses/Permit;
4) Year 2001 Income Tax Return; and
5) Company History/Profile;

Only those who comply with the above requirements will be invited to participate in the actual bidding which will be conducted on a later date to be advised.

The two envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

The BSP hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defects or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO L. MAGAHIS**
Director

(PDI--June 17, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO
PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO
MUNICIPALITY OF PARANG

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Parang, Maguindanao has obtained a loan for the improvement and construction of the Parang Water Supply System from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) thru the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) as the Government Financial Institution (GFI) under the Mindanao Basic Urban Services Sector Project (MBUSSP), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). All interested bidders with PCAB license "AAA" and classified by and registered with the IAC, as Large B for Water Supply projects are invited to apply for eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

Name of Project	Parang Water Supply System-Package 1	Parang Water Supply System-Package 2
Location	Parang, Maguindanao, ARMM	Parang, Maguindanao, ARMM
Approved Budget for the Contract	P46.67M	P43.28M
Contract Duration	360 calendar days	360 calendar days
Scope of Work	Supply and installation of pipelines and fittings, construction of related civil works including dam/intake structure, reinforced concrete ground reservoir, booster pumping station, chlorination house, access roads, etc.	Supply and installation of pipelines and fittings, service connections and construction of related civil works, break pressure chamber structure, etc.

Schedule of application for eligibility and bidding are as follows:

1.	Issuance of Bidders Eligibility Statement Forms	From June 3 to June 17, 2002 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P100.00
2.	Submission of Duly Accomplished Eligibility Forms	Last day of submission is on June 24, 2002 at PIU-LGU Office, Parang, Maguindanao and Woodfields Consultants, Inc., 153 Kamias Road, Quezon City
3.	Issuance of Plans/ Bid Documents	From July 8 to 15, 2002 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P10,000.00
4.	Site Visit	The Eligible Contractor shall conduct the site visit/inspection on July 16, 2002
5.	Pre-Bid Conference	10:00 AM on July 17, 2002 at PIU-LGU Office, Parang, Maguindanao
6.	Submission and Opening of Bids	Not later than 2:00 PM at BAC-LGU Office, Parang, Maguindanao on August 19, 2002

For Issuance of Bidders Eligibility Statement Form and Plans/Bid Documents, contact: **MR. JESUS M. CORPUS**, Project Officer, Municipal Hall, Parang, Maguindanao.

The Municipality of Parang reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ADNAN C. BIRUAR, AL HAJ**
Acting Mayor/Vice Mayor
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – June 3, 10 & 17, 2002)

INFOTECH

Editor Leo Magno

CDMA gets ready for 3G migration

By Edwin P. Sallan

HONG KONG—If you can't beat 'em, join 'em—at least for the time being.

With more than 120 million subscribers worldwide, third generation (3G) digital wireless communications based on the Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) platform is now firmly established and continues to grow at a phenomenal rate, so says the CDMA Development Group (CDG) that organized the 3G World Congress held last week at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

"CDMA continues to expand rapidly around the world and is leading in 3G adoption," beams Perry La Forge, executive director of CDG. "The subscriber demand for wireless data connectivity continues to increase and opens new opportunities for service providers and manufacturers."

But even with this encouraging development, Qualcomm, the company that pioneered CDMA technology, is determined to make inroads in territories where 2G systems based on the Global System for Mobile communications (GSM) standard remain in place. GSM remains the dominant platform for mobile communications, with some 680 million subscribers worldwide from mostly European and Asian countries, the Philippines included.

Qualcomm, which supplies both hardware and software technology to 3G mobile communications vendors, has announced multi-platform solutions which it hopes would ultimately lead to full 3G migration.

These include chipset solutions like the MSM6200, the MGP6200 Multimode Global Positioning System (GPS) and system software and the radioOne 6300, which will bridge 2G and 3G technologies on GSM, and GPRS (general packet radio system).

There's also the new BREW (Binary Runtime Environment for Wireless) software application platform that can run on both CDMA and GSM hardware and further enhance their capabilities while sitting on top of other similar technologies like Java and running unobtrusively in the background.

"Although the 3G direction which the vast majority of carriers are taking throughout the world is CDMA (either CDMA2000 or W-CDMA), the strategy to recognize that GSM networks and subscribers will be around for some time is a reflection of our commitment to provide users with 3G capabilities, with the ability to roam anywhere in the world," says Marshall Towe Jr., managing director of Qualcomm Southeast Asia.

Towe acknowledges that even as many parts of the world are now enjoying the unsurpassed user experience that only 3G can provide, particularly Korea where CDMA is now prevalent, GSM strongholds are not likely to make the switch overnight.

"The convergence from GSM to CDMA will take time and full con-

CDMA/ B19

Hardcore action for hardcore fans

By Joel D. Pinaroc

WRESTLING fans who want to emulate their ring idols need not look far with WWF Raw, the wrestling video game from THQ, which is now available for Microsoft's Xbox.

I've tried the game and I'm sure fans of the wrestling cum-sports-entertainment game will find WWF Raw a must-have in their game collections.

For starters, the game comes with all the goodies that a hardcore WWF fan would want. Players will get to play their favorite wrestling stars including The Rock, Triple H and Stone Cold Steve Austin, among others, in several wrestling matches devised by the WWF, which incidentally is now known as World Wrestling Entertainment.

Players get to engage their favorite mat superstars in either the classic One-on-One, Tag-Team, Triple Threat, Fatal Four and Battle Royal matches. There's even an option which allows players to throw the so-called rules out of the window and engage in an all-out, no-holds barred matches, which, in my opinion, makes the game a good title for players fond of multi-player action.

WWF Raw will not be complete without the signature moves of wrestling superstars. From the Pedigree to the People's Elbow, mat fans can now execute and enjoy over and over again their favorite "finishing moves."

Playing as your favorite wrestling superstar, you could "Choke Slam" or "Tombstone" your way to several championship titles including the WWF, Intercontinental and Light Heavyweight titles. Or, you could also cold-cock your enemies via the "Stone Cold Stunner" to win special titles such as the King of the Ring and European titles.

We review this game on the Xbox

If you are more into "technical" wrestling, there are also several submission moves unique to specific wrestlers. If you're more inclined to a street brawl kind of a match, you can use a steel chair, a garbage can or a steel ladder to dish out pain on your way to winning the "Hardcore" title.

Female mat fans are not left out because there's also a Women's Title using any of the ravishing lady wrestlers of the WWF.

WWF Raw also comes loaded with extras. One of these, and a personal favorite, is the "Create a Superstar" mode where a player can create and design his own wrestling superstar. From designing the appearance of the wrestler to assigning his or her allies, players can have their unique wrestler or wrestlers join the mat wars.

WWF/ B19

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Samsung projection TV

By Jerry Liao

ALTHOUGH one can still see the 55-inch Samsung projection TV from afar, this week we will take a closer look at the product.

Strengths

1) It has a five-picture and five-sound mode, zooming, multi-PIP (picture-in-picture), double screen, dolby surround, perfect focus feature, digital noise reduction, clock and timer and universal remote control.

2) Has a 100-program memory, built-in woofer system, rear and front panel jacks, S-video input jack, surround out and more.

3) V-Chip feature automatically locks out programming deemed inappropriate for kids

4) Closed captions or subtitles for hearing-impaired people or foreign languages

Weaknesses

1) You better have space for this big guy measures 45.71 x 23.82 x 55.12 inches.

2) I wish it had an active matrix display, although I don't think projection-type televisions support it.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The Bottom Line

The Samsung projection television is a great home entertainment appliance, packed with features, plenty of connectivity options and great audio performance.

For more reviews on the latest gadgets and gizmos, visit us at www.infochat.com.ph.

Want us to review a product? Send us an e-mail to infochat@mozcom.com with the subject heading: "The Bottom Line."

Treo takes on Nokia 9210

By JV Rufino

FOR quite a while now I have been using the Handspring Treo 180—Handspring's latest attempt to merge a cellular phone with a PDA—as my primary phone to see how well it copes with the rigors of day-to-day use and how it compares with the Nokia 9210 Communicator, Nokia's take on the phone-PDA hybrid.

First off, both products show the heritage of their makers, i.e., PDA manufacturer or phone manufacturer.

Handspring was formed by the original team that made the first Palm and their expertise shows. As a PDA, the Treo is better than the Communicator. The Treo's Palm OS-based PDA applications are more intuitive than their counterparts on the Communicator and the Treo is more stable (the Communicator needing more than the occasional reset). On the other hand, the Communicator doesn't need a stylus, relying instead on gamepad-like cursor pad. Although it takes getting used to, at least with the Communicator you don't have to worry about losing a stylus in the middle of a busy day. And its screen is colored to the Treo's monochrome.

On the other hand, the Treo is clunkier as a phone. Battery life, voice quality, reception and volume are not as good as that of the Communicator (though not exceptionally bad either), since Nokia knows how to make phones.

The integration of the Address Book with SMS and e-mail is also better on the Communicator than on the Treo. On the Treo, SMS and e-mail are separate applications and if you want to send a fax you'll need a third-party program. SMS, e-mail and faxes are all stored in a single application on the Communicator—a more elegant way of keeping track of who said what to whom (the situation is reversed when it comes to surfing, the Communicator having one browser for Wap and another for the Web while the Treo's Blazer browser displays both HTML and WAP pages).

This isn't to say that the Treo doesn't have some nice touches as a phone. My favorite is the dedicated switch that places the phone on silent mode. Definitely better than going through the Nokia Profiles menu when you need to squelch the ringer fast such as when in a movie house or church. The rocker switch on the left side also proves handy though it took a bit of experimenting to figure out how to use it to its full potential. And the Treo is a lot handier than the Communicator, which has never been famous for being dainty (the price though is you forego the Communicator's roomy keyboard and have to make do with the Treo's "thumb-board" which for its size is surprisingly comfortable for sending short text messages).

So which one should you go for? Like all

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ATTY. JOSE ABITRIA NALDO

Of Donsol, Sorsogon and Bladensburg, Maryland

Former Labor Attaché of Washington, DC., U.S.A. and Geneva, Switzerland

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 15, 2002 at the age of 85.

His loving wife **GREGORIA KAKILALA**; children and children-in-law: **MARIA MINERVA, SOFIA PORTIA, MARIA FILIPINAS** and **DR. PAUL FONTELO, REYNALDO** and **ROSIE, SEMPER FIDELIS** and **ANTHONY BARWICK, JOSE NALDO JR.** and **DR. JULIETTE**; grandchildren: **ALEXANDRA, CASSANDRA, IAN, JOHN PAUL, MARIE CHRISTINE, PAUL VINCENT, XAVIER, MELANIE, CHRISTOPHER, JUDY, JACOB** and **JOSEPH NALDO III** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies at Chapel Love, Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Q.C.

Interment will be at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Silver Spring, Maryland U.S.A.

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
My spirit rejoices in God- my Saviour,
For He has looked with favor on his lowly servant"
Magnificat

ANTONIO NEBRES-YAP TANCHULING

Nov. 3, 1928 - June 15, 2002
(B.S. EM - UP Class '52)

peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 73.

His bereaved wife Ludy;
Children: Pete and Edna; Bepo and Grace;
Nonong and Emily; Arnie and Hazel; Milo and Ging;
Larry and Gay; and Tonette;
his 20 grandchildren and relatives

request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains now lie in state at Stella Maria dela Strada Parish
Katipunan Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City
Wednesday, June 19, 2002 after the 8 A.M. mass.

We Lovingly Remember
the First Death Anniversary of

Marcelina Turqueza Antiporta

Who peacefully joined her Creator on June 17, 2001 at the age of 80.

Please accept our deepest gratitude for all of you who were with us and offered prayers and condolence during our time of loss. We ask those of you whose lives she touched with her generosity for continued prayers.

From the sons, daughters, granddaughter, relatives, and friends of the late **Marcelina Turqueza Antiporta**.

Consolacion (Choleng) Tagalog - Nocon

vda. de ***Raymundo Franco Nocon, Sr.***
of General Trias, Cavite

peacefully joined her creator on June 15,2002 at the age of 95.

Her bereaved grandchildren Carlos and Luis, nephews, nieces, other relatives, and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains now lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels (Chapel N) in Guadalupe, Makati City and will be at the General Trias Poblacion Parish Church at nine o'clock in the morning of Wednesday, June 19, 2002.

Interment will be on Wednesday June 19, 2002 at the General Trias Municipal Cemetery after the two o'clock mass.

In Loving Memory
of our Mama's 12th Death Anniversary

Dra. LUISA LIM-ACO DE LEON

of Biñan, Laguna and Iloilo City
who joined her Creator on June 17, 1990
Masses will be offered at the following churches today, June 17, 2002.

SAN ISIDRO PARISH CHURCH
Poblacion, Biñan, Laguna ..... 6:00 a.m.
FILINVEST HOMES CHAPEL on June 16, 2002
Biñan, Laguna ..... 9:30 a.m.
SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA
Biñan, Laguna ..... 6:00 a.m.
GOLDEN CROSS PARISH CHURCH
San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna ..... 6:00 p.m.
ST. PETER CHURCH
Balibago, Sta. Rosa, Laguna ..... 6:30 a.m.
PARISH OF ST. ANNE
Molo, Iloilo City ..... 5:30 a.m.
DOMINICAN MOTHER HOUSE
Molo, Iloilo City ..... 5:30 a.m.
UNIVERSITY OF SAN AGUSTIN CHAPEL
Gen. Luna St., Iloilo City ..... 6:30 a.m.
DON BOSCO PARISH CHURCH
Pasay Road, Makati City ..... 6:30 a.m.
ST. ANDREW PARISH CHURCH
Nicanor Garcia St., Makati City ..... 6:30 a.m.
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO
Forbes Park, Makati City ..... 6:30 a.m.

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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

INVITATION TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will conduct a bidding for the supply of labor and qualified personnel to undertake the daily monitoring and maintenance of the Fire Protection System at the BSP Main Complex in accordance with BSP Terms of Reference of Services which may be secured from the Manager II, Procurement Division II, Administrative Services Department, Room 213, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP Complex, Malate, Manila, Tel. Nos. 5252493/5248229.

Interested bidders/contractors must submit/comply with the following requirements:

1) Must be a licensed specialized "Fire Protection Contractor" issued by the PCAB;
2) Must have a permanently employed registered professional mechanical engineer, with at least 5 years experience in the construction industry;
3) Must have undertaken service contracts of the same or bigger responsibility than the services required within the last five (5) years; and
4) Must possess all the necessary tools, equipment and devices such as gauges, flow meters, threaders and wrenches to implement the service contract.

The above requirements, together with the photocopies of documents listed below (original copies of items 1 and 2 to be presented for authentication purposes) shall be submitted to the Administrative Services Department at the abovementioned address not later than **June 25, 2002.**

1) Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers;
2) Year 2001 duly Audited Financial Statements (Balance Sheet and Income Statement);
3) Business Licenses/Permit;
4) Year 2001 Income Tax Return; and
5) Company History/Profile;

Only those who comply with the above requirements will be invited to participate in the actual bidding which will be conducted on a later date to be advised.

The two envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

The BSP hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defects or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO L. MAGAHIS**
Director

(PDI--June 17, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO
PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO
MUNICIPALITY OF PARANG

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Parang, Maguindanao has obtained a loan for the improvement and construction of the Parang Water Supply System from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) thru the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) as the Government Financial Institution (GFI) under the Mindanao Basic Urban Services Sector Project (MBUSSP), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). All interested bidders with PCAB license "AAA" and classified by and registered with the IAC, as Large B for Water Supply projects are invited to apply for eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

Name of Project	Parang Water Supply System-Package 1	Parang Water Supply System-Package 2
Location	Parang, Maguindanao, ARMM	Parang, Maguindanao, ARMM
Approved Budget for the Contract	P46.67M	P43.28M
Contract Duration	360 calendar days	360 calendar days
Scope of Work	Supply and installation of pipelines and fittings, construction of related civil works including dam/intake structure, reinforced concrete ground reservoir, booster pumping station, chlorination house, access roads, etc.	Supply and installation of pipelines and fittings, service connections and construction of related civil works, break pressure chamber structure, etc.

Schedule of application for eligibility and bidding are as follows:

1.	Issuance of Bidders Eligibility Statement Forms	From June 3 to June 17, 2002 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P100.00
2.	Submission of Duly Accomplished Eligibility Forms	Last day of submission is on June 24, 2002 at PIU-LGU Office, Parang, Maguindanao and Woodholds Consultants, Inc., 153 Kamias Road, Quezon City
3.	Issuance of Plans/ Bid Documents	From July 8 to 15, 2002 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P10,000.00
4.	Site Visit	The Eligible Contractor shall conduct the site visit/inspection on July 16, 2002
5.	Pre-Bid Conference	10:00 AM on July 17, 2002 at PIU-LGU Office, Parang, Maguindanao
6.	Submission and Opening of Bids	Not later than 2:00 PM at BAC-LGU Office, Parang, Maguindanao on August 19, 2002

For issuance of Bidders Eligibility Statement Form and Plans/Bid Documents, contact: **MR. JESUS M. CORPUS**, Project Officer, Municipal Hall, Parang, Maguindanao.

The Municipality of Parang reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ADNAN C. BIRUAR, AL HAJ**
Acting Mayor/Vice Mayor
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – June 3, 10 & 17, 2002)

INFOTECH
Editor Leo Magno

CDMA gets ready for 3G migration

By Edwin P. Sallan

HONG KONG—If you can't beat 'em, join 'em—at least for the time being.

With more than 120 million subscribers worldwide, third generation (3G) digital wireless communications based on the Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) platform is now firmly established and continues to grow at a phenomenal rate, so says the CDMA DeVelopment Group (CDG) that organized the 3G World Congress held last week at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

"CDMA continues to expand rapidly around the world and is leading in 3G adoption," beams Perry La Forge, executive director of CDG. "The subscriber demand for wireless data connectivity continues to increase and opens new opportunities for service providers and manufacturers."

But even with this encouraging development, Qualcomm, the company that pioneered CDMA technology, is determined to make inroads in territories where 2G systems based on the Global System for Mobile communications (GSM) standard remain in place. GSM remains the dominant platform for mobile communications, with some 680 million subscribers worldwide from mostly European and Asian countries, the Philippines included.

Qualcomm, which supplies both hardware and software technology to 3G mobile communications vendors, has announced multi-platform solutions which it hopes would ultimately lead to full 3G migration.

These include chipset solutions like the MSM6200, the MGP6200 Multimode Global Positioning System (GPS) and system software and the radioOne 6300, which will bridge 2G and 3G technologies on GSM, and GPRS (general packet radio system).

There's also the new BREW (Binary Runtime Environment for Wireless) software application platform that can run on both CDMA and GSM hardware and further enhance their capabilities while sitting on top of other similar technologies like Java and running unobtrusively in the background.

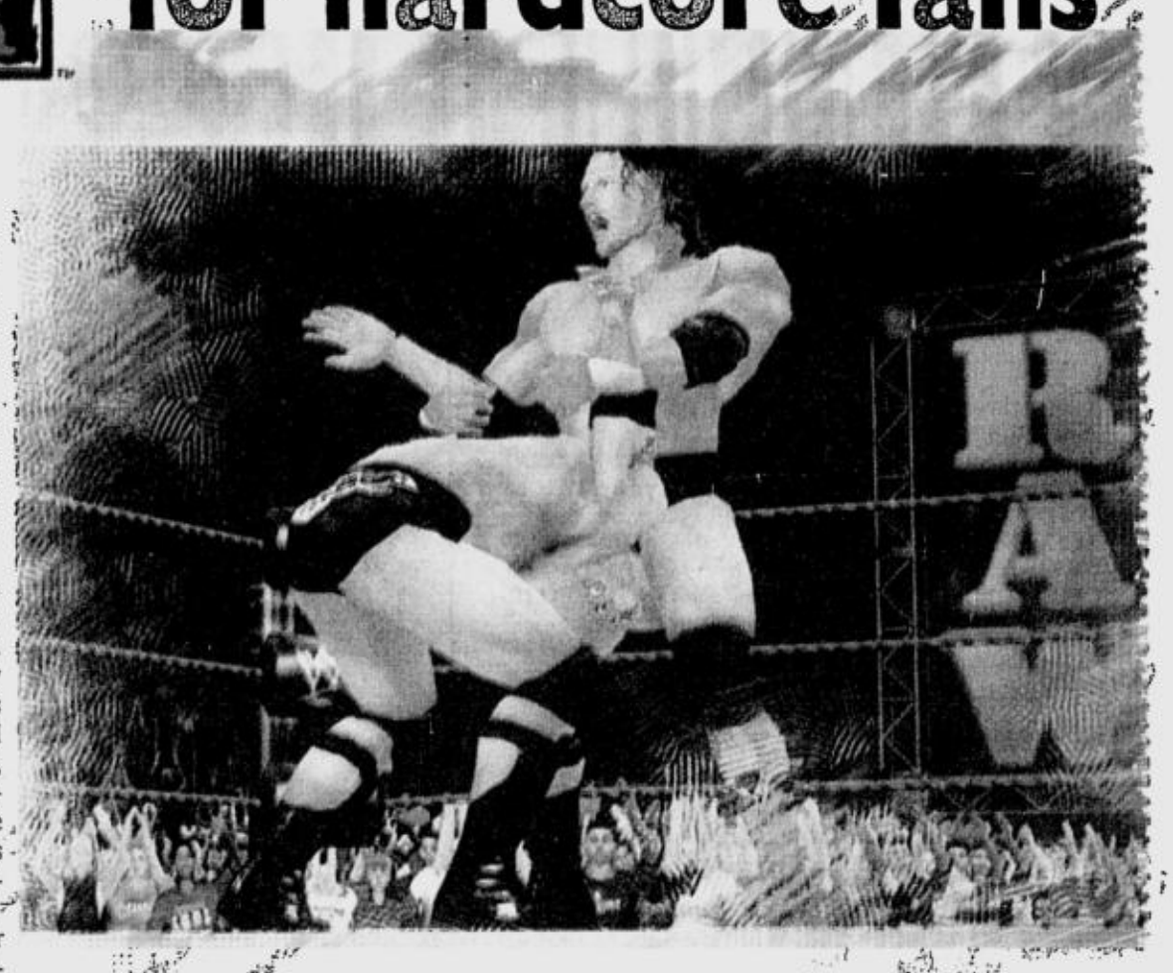
"Although the 3G direction which the vast majority of carriers are taking throughout the world is CDMA (either CDMA2000 or W-CDMA), the strategy to recognize that GSM networks and subscribers will be around for some time is a reflection of our commitment to provide users with 3G capabilities, with the ability to roam anywhere in the world," says Marshall Towe Jr., managing director of Qualcomm Southeast Asia.

Towe acknowledges that even as many parts of the world are now enjoying the unsurpassed user experience that only 3G can provide, particularly Korea where CDMA is now prevalent, GSM strongholds are not likely to make the switch overnight.

"The convergence from GSM to CDMA will take time and full con-

CDMA/ B19

Hardcore action for hardcore fans



By Joel D. Pinaroc

WRESTLING fans who want to emulate their ring idols need not look far with WWF Raw, the wrestling video game from THQ, which is now available for Microsoft's Xbox.

I've tried the game and I'm sure fans of the wrestling cum-sports-entertainment game will find WWF Raw a must-have in their game collections.

For starters, the game comes with all the goodies that a hardcore WWF fan would want. Players will get to play their favorite wrestling stars including The Rock, Triple H and Stone Cold Steve Austin, among others, in several wrestling matches devised by the WWF, which incidentally is now known as World Wrestling Entertainment.

Players get to engage their favorite mat superstars in either the classic One-on-One, Tag-Team, Triple Threat, Fatal Four and Battle Royal matches. There's even an option which allows players to throw the so-called rules out of the window and engage in an all-out, no-holds barred matches, which, in my opinion, makes the game a good title for players fond of multi-player action.

WWF Raw will not be complete without the signature moves of wrestling superstars. From the Pedigree to the People's Elbow, mat fans can now execute and enjoy over and over again their favorite "finishing moves."

Playing as your favorite wrestling superstar, you could "Choke Slam" or "Tombstone" your way to several championship titles including the WWF, Intercontinental and Light Heavyweight titles. Or, you could also cold-cock your enemies via the "Stone Cold Stunner" to win special titles such as the King of the Ring and European titles.

If you are more into "technical" wrestling, there are also several submission moves unique to specific wrestlers. If you're more inclined to a street brawl kind of a match, you can use a steel chair, a garbage can or a steel ladder to dish out pain on your way to winning the "Hardcore" title.

We review this game on the Xbox

Female mat fans are not left out because there's also a Women's Title using any of the ravishing lady wrestlers of the WWF.

WWF Raw also comes loaded with extras. One of these, and a personal favorite, is the "Create a Superstar" mode where a player can create and design his own wrestling superstar. From designing the appearance of the wrestler to assigning his or her allies, players can have their unique wrestler or wrestlers join the mat wars.

WWF/ B19

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Samsung projection TV

By Jerry Liao

ALTHOUGH one can still see the 55-inch Samsung projection TV from afar, this week we will take a closer look at the product.

Strengths

1) It has a five-picture and five-sound mode, zooming, multi-PIP (picture-in-picture), double screen, dolby surround, perfect focus feature, digital noise reduction, clock and timer and universal remote control.

2) Has a 100-program memory, built-in woofer system, rear and front panel jacks, S-video input jack, surround out and more.

3) V-Chip feature automatically locks out programming deemed inappropriate for kids

4) Closed captions or subtitles for hearing-impaired people or foreign languages

THE BOTTOM LINE

Weaknesses

1) You better have space for this big guy measures 45.71 x 23.82 x 55.12 inches.

2) I wish it had an active matrix display, although I don't think projection-type televisions support it.

The Bottom Line

The Samsung projection television is a great home entertainment appliance, packed with features, plenty of connectivity options and great audio performance.

For more reviews on the latest gadgets and gizmos, visit us at www.infochat.com.ph.

Want us to review a product? Send us an e-mail to infochat@mozcom.com with the subject heading: "The Bottom Line."

Treo takes on Nokia 9210

By JV Rufino

FOR quite a while now I have been using the Handspring Treo 180—Handspring's latest attempt to merge a cellular phone with a PDA—as my primary phone to see how well it copes with the rigors of day-to-day use and how it compares with the Nokia 9210 Communicator, Nokia's take on the phone-PDA hybrid.

First off, both products show the heritage of their makers, i.e., PDA manufacturer or phone manufacturer.

Handspring was formed by the original team that made the first Palm and their expertise shows. As a PDA, the Treo is better than the Communicator. The Treo's Palm OS-based PDA applications are more intuitive than their counterparts on the Communicator and the Treo is more stable (the Communicator needing more than the occasional reset). On the other hand, the Communicator doesn't need a stylus, relying instead on gamepad-like cursor pad. Although it takes getting used to, at least with the Communicator you don't have to worry about losing a stylus in the middle of a busy day. And its screen is colored to the Treo's monochrome.

On the other hand, the Treo is clunkier as a phone. Battery life, voice quality, reception and volume are not as good as that of the Communicator (though not exceptionally bad either), since Nokia knows how to make phones.

The integration of the Address Book with SMS and e-mail is also better on the Communicator than on the Treo. On the Treo, SMS and e-mail are separate applications and if you want to send a fax you'll need a third-party program. SMS, e-mail and faxes are all stored in a single application on the Communicator—a more elegant way of keeping track of who said what to whom (the situation is reversed when it comes to surfing, the Communicator having one browser for Wap and another for the Web while the Treo's Blazer browser displays both HTML and WAP pages).

This isn't to say that the Treo doesn't have some nice touches as a phone. My favorite is the dedicated switch that places the phone on silent mode. Definitely better than going through the Nokia Profiles menu when you need to squelch the ringer fast such as when in a movie house or church. The rocker switch on the left side also proves handy though it took a bit of experimenting to figure out how to use it to its full potential. And the Treo is a lot handier than the Communicator, which has never been famous for being dainty (the price though is you forego the Communicator's roomy keyboard and have to make do with the Treo's "thumb-board" which for its size is surprisingly comfortable for sending short text messages).

So which one should you go for? Like all

TREO/ B19

Lack of funding, gov't support bar RP Silicon Valley dreams

By Joel D. Pinaroc

THE LACK of funding from different sectors and the apparent lackadaisical support from government are the main reasons why local information technology (IT) schools are not at par with their global counterparts, executives of a Philippine-based IT school said in an interview.

According to Peter Fernandez, chief information officer of Carnegie Mellon University-backed iAcademy, IT schools in the country are "not producing Silicon Valley-type individuals" but are instead focused on developing an "army of programmers."

"It is not a question of capability, as Filipinos are known to excel abroad. The problem is that schools do not have resources to put up say, a Bell Labs type of facility," Fernandez said.

Fernandez explained that only with high-end and research-intensive facilities that students can really maximize their potentials. He said that unfortunately, no facilities exist in the Philippines, due to lack of funding from both government and private sectors.

"If we will look at the Internet, it was a government initiative. We don't see government (in the Philippines) fund such projects on a wide scale," Fernandez said.

And if ever a Bell Labs is established in the country, the lack of resources in the side of students, will also make it difficult for them to get quality education.

Mitch Andaya, dean and chief operating officer of iAcademy added that there are no "student loan" arrangements in the Philippines, unlike in other more-developed countries.

Andaya said countries like the United States for example have such loan arrangements which will ideally help capable yet financially struggling students to avail of quality education.

Andaya added that the United States can afford the luxury of providing quality education to students, since most of these US students "stay" in their country to work.

Fernandez added that the opposite is happening in the Philippines because a majority of the students would want to go to the United States after getting their training from local IT schools.

Fernandez added that while there are efforts on the side of the Philippine government as far as IT education is concerned, bureaucracy is making it harder for these projects to take-off.

"In my opinion, there are too many meetings and discussions from numerous government agencies on IT. The problem is, less is being accomplished," Fernandez said, noting that the proposed Department of Information and Communications Technology or DITC, could be another level in the bureaucracy.

The policies of government agencies on education may also need to be "overhauled" since some of the rules are no longer applicable for IT education.

According to Andaya, there would have to be changes in the curriculum for IT courses that government agencies have been implementing.

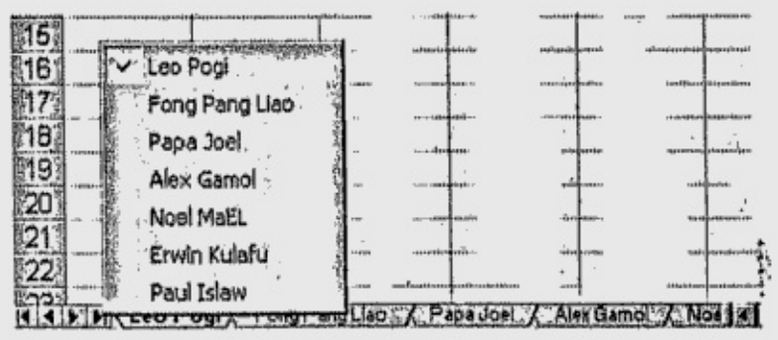
While he noted that government is quite lenient in setting up the requirements in establishing an IT school, this "flexibility" may prove to be a double-edged blade, as some institutions abuse the rules.

Andaya said this is the reason why there are now numerous IT schools, who are prone to offering courses that are "too theoretical" since these schools do not have the facilities in the first place.

"We are even seeing some IT schools picking up subjects from foreign schools, then offering these subjects in the Philippines on a purely theoretical basis, without the proper hands-on training," Andaya said.

So what can students in the Philippines do to remain competitive with their global counterparts?

According to Fernandez and Andaya, only a handful of universities and learning institutions in the country are offering world-class education. Unfortunately, the fact remains that quality education in the Philippines comes with a high price tag.



Navigate worksheets faster

By Jerry Liao

IF your Microsoft Excel workbook contains many sheets, and not all of the sheets' tabs fit on the screen, you can scroll through the tabs or use the keyboard to activate a distant sheet, or you may also want to try this trick:

1) Open your workbook

2) Right-click one of the arrows to the left of the sheet tabs that are located at the bottom

3) Sheet name will pop up

4) Select a sheet from the list, and you're there.

For more tips, visit http://www.brainshare.com.ph. We would like to invite our readers to join The Powertips Group. Simply register online at www.brainshare.com.ph/register.htm and receive free tips via e-mail.

For comments and suggestions, send e-mail to infochat@mozcom.com.

Treo takes on Nokia . . .

From page B18

things in computing, it depends on what you want. If sheer features and the phone part of the equation are vital to you, then go for the Communicator. If your needs gravitate more toward the PDA side, then go for the Treo. You should also go for the Treo if size is a problem (the size of phone I mean).

WWF . . .

From page B18

Perhaps as important as the signature moves are the ring entrances. WWF Raw, utilizing the hardware brawn of the Xbox, captures the hype and hoopla and the sometimes ridiculous ring entrances and pre-fight videos unique to each wrestling superstar.

From pyrotechnics to ear-splitting music, watch your favorite wrestlers strut their wares toward the center ring (some actual video footage of the wrestlers are shown). And to add a touch of realism to this, a player can "interfere" and immediately attack an opponent outside the squared circle and assault him at the ramp.

The game's controls are simple enough, with a single button for attacks, defense and grapple. A combination of the attack and defense buttons and the directional pad also allows players to execute even more varied moves. There are lots of moves players can use. Having several moves comes into play since there is also a "Voltage Meter" which gauges the audience's attitude toward you. If you can sway the crowd to your side, the easier it becomes for you to execute your finishing move.

As much as the graphics are life-like, some of them, in my opinion, still need improvement.

For instance, players would notice that a majority of the wrestlers are somewhat bow-legged and that some sharp edges on the game's characters are still noticeable.

Also, the game play of WWF Raw is a bit slow. This may seem trivial, but if you're accustomed to fighting games, you may find the action in WWF Raw slow, although I don't think it is fair to categorize WWF Raw with say, Dead or Alive 3.

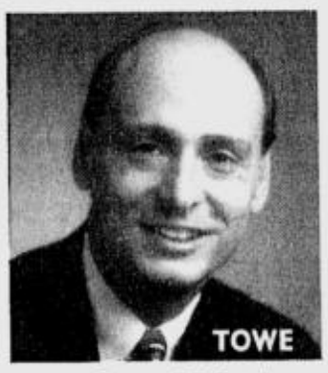
Overall, this title is an essential collection for the most hardcore of wrestling fans, although the casual mat spectator may also find the title an excellent one.

CDMA gets ready . . .

From page B18

vergence to 3G is still years away," he concedes. "In the meantime, the 3G capability (of GSM-compatible products) bridges the gap."

Even as Qualcomm is coming up with such multi-platform solutions to penetrate the GSM market, Towe disclosed that the company remains firm in its commitment to bring 3G technology everywhere in the world via the CDMA2000 and W-CDMA platforms. Qualcomm is particularly keen on rolling out 3G service in the Philippines, which Towe describes as "an awesome, strong market, very Western in many ways and without language issues."



"We would like to work with one of the existing 800-MHz operators in your country to roll out 3G service thru CDMA2000 in the very near future," Towe enthuses. "The success of Korea, United States, Japan and now many other countries shows that this technology can be of great benefit to the consumers and allows operators a very cost-effective and efficient way to quickly and easily roll out 3G services."

Towe also points out that building blocks are already in place to make 3G an immediate reality in the Philippines, although Qualcomm still needs to work out some issues with network providers and government regulating agencies like the National Telecommunications Commission. He notes that the country still has a small CDMA system from Piltel in place with some 50,000 subscribers and identifies both Piltel and another network provider, sister company Smart, as mobile operators that are capable of doing 3G right now.

As demonstrated in several keynote speeches and roundtable discussions during the Hong Kong congress, 3G in its present commercial incarnation is by far the most advanced form of mobile communications technology available today. Wireless devices powered by Qualcomm chipsets and BREW technology like cellular handsets, personal digital assistants and modem cards are loaded with such features as high-speed Internet access, global roaming, crystal-clear voice quality, symphonic ringing tones, high-resolution color displays, built-in digital cameras, streaming video and MP3 players, downloadable multimedia games and other applications.

One compelling application is position location services, which can either help prevent a user from getting lost in a certain vicinity with the help of an interactive onscreen map or easily follow and track down the location of any one or more given companions within a five-meter radius.

Towe believes this application is just one of the many 3G technologies that are likely to become popular with Filipino consumers when 3G finally takes off in the country.

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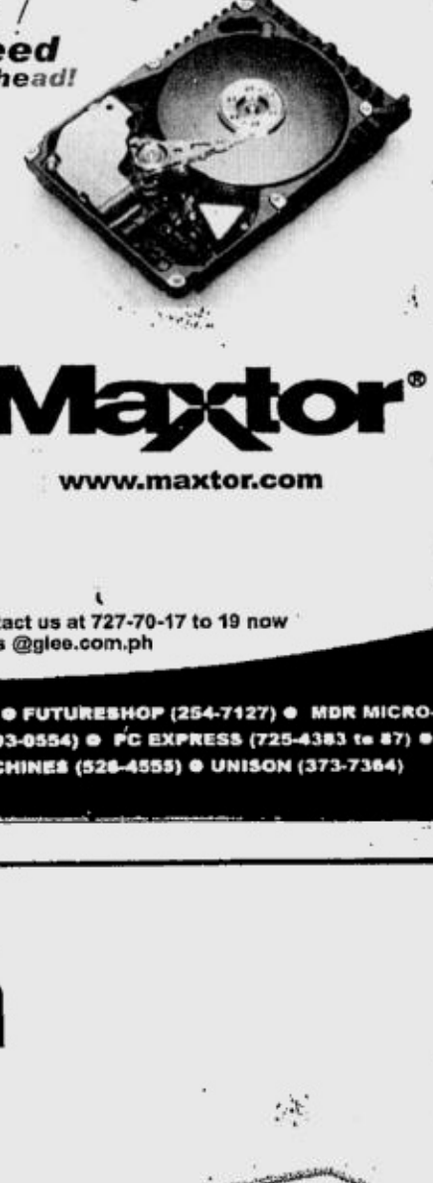

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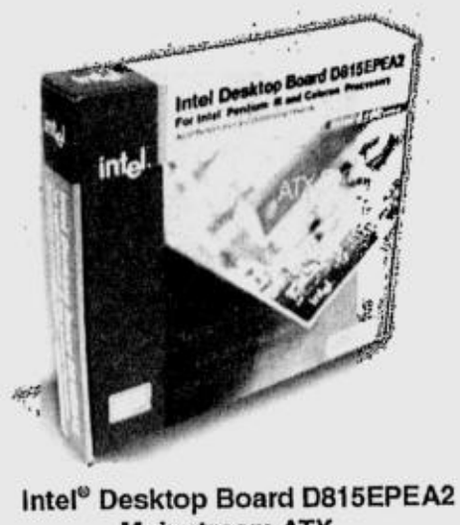

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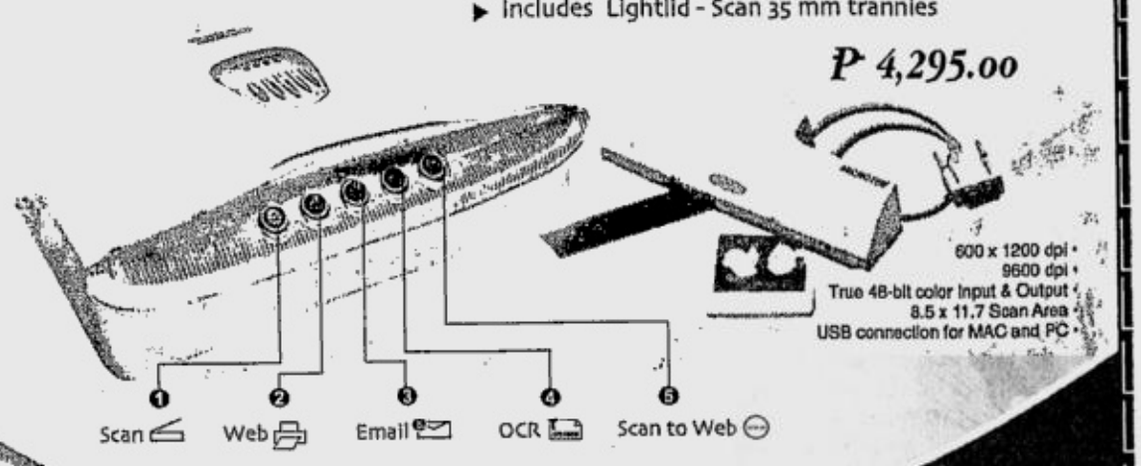

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Camacho to clarify gov't stand on PAL

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho is set to meet with officials of Philippine Airlines Inc. this week to shed light on statements made by President Macapagal-Arroyo that the government is considering re-taking the flag carrier.

"PAL wanted to clarify what the study assigned to me was all about, so I would try to explain the issue to them," Camacho said in an interview.

The President ordered Camacho to study the "re-nationalization" of PAL, so that the government "can think of PAL as a tool of government policy and not as another business enterprise."

PAL, controlled by tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan, had objected to the government's plan.

Camacho, however, dismissed the issue as "no big deal," stressing that Ms Macapagal's plan was a "tentative" one.

He admitted, however, that he had begun gathering materials on the airline liberalization and open-skies policies of other countries, including those of Thailand and Malaysia, the two models that Ms Macapagal wanted to copy.

"The study aims to develop a position on whether the open skies policy and the liberalization of the industry could be achieved even with private sector participation. We also wanted to find out what arrangement would be best for the government," he explained.

He stressed that in conducting the study, the bigger picture was tourism, and pursuing an open-skies policy was just a tool.

PAL, according to persons familiar with the matter, has become part of the picture because it has managed to derail the government's open-skies policy and consequently held back a liberalization of the airline industry.

"This issue is being made too big a deal when it should not be. At this point, I'm simply gathering information on the experience of Thailand and Malaysia," Camacho said.

He said the President's plan should not affect the national government's and five of its financial institutions' move to press PAL to honor a P2-billion put option agreement that expired on May 7.

The national government accounts for 0.96 percent of the remaining 4.26 percent the state holds in the airline.

The Government Service Insurance System has a 1.37-percent stake, while Land Bank of the Philippines has 0.69 percent; Development Bank of the Philippines and Philippine National Bank; 0.46 percent each; and, the AFP-Retirement Service Benefits System, 0.31 percent.

PAL expects up to P1.6 billion to P1.8 billion in losses in its fiscal year ending February, slightly lower that an estimated P2.7 billion.

The flag carrier's par value is now down to P1 each, and its book value currently stands at 33 centavos a share.

Tan owns 53.79 percent of PAL, and three companies he controls account for 35.15 percent.

PAL employees own 2.61 percent, while other private groups believed to be related to Tan hold the remaining 4.19 percent.

In 1999, the flag carrier required a fresh $200-million infusion that was put up by the Tan group through Top Wealth Enterprise, Maxell Holdings and Richmark Holdings.

Gov't asked to set aside 'lopsided' open skies policy

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PHILIPPINE Airlines Inc. is appealing to the Macapagal administration to put on hold a "lopsided" open skies—or unlimited passenger flight—program between the Philippines and the United States set to begin in October.

In a letter to Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II, PAL president and chief operating officer Avelino Zapanta urged the government to renegotiate the terms of an existing Philippine-US air transport agreement to adopt a "calibrated" open skies policy that would provide for market-based enhancements and reasonable safety nets and promote the Philippines as an aviation hub.

Zapanta said under the current agreement, the Philippines would automatically adopt an open skies policy with the United States by October next year "regardless of actual market circumstances or the distortion of competition caused by state aid to US airlines."

He said Philippine carriers were "handicapped" by safety nets in the form of a $15-billion subsidy granted by Washington to American airlines to protect them from financial collapse following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Even European airlines have raised concerns over the impact of this bailout package, he said.

Zapanta said US airlines could use the subsidy to "launch unfair or destructive competitive practices under a lopsided open skies regime that would hasten market instability at the expense of growth."

Apart from being placed at a disadvantage by the subsidy, according to Zapanta, local carriers have limited access to the US market.

Philippine carriers are excluded from US airline alliances and face the threat of another flight freeze as Washington has downgraded the local aviation authority's capability to perform safety oversight functions, he said.

While the Philippines intends to fully honor its commitments under its air transport agreement with the United States, Zapanta stressed, PAL has gone through turbulent conditions over the last six years.

The carrier suffered through a freeze on Philippine flights to the United States from 1996 to 1997, the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis, a financial collapse in 1998, economic and political crises in 1999 and 2000, and a tourism decline due to negative media coverage on the peace and order situation here and travel advisories by foreign governments, including the United States.

Zapanta said the Sept. 11 crisis further dashed all of PAL's hopeful projections based on its re-fleeting and cost-cutting programs, as it "wrenched the global airline industry from expansion to retrenchment and fragile consolidation."

Had it not been for the Sept. 11 attacks, PAL would have stretched its profit streak to a record three consecutive years, allowing the flag carrier to list on the stock market, he said.

He further justified PAL's plea for a delay in the open skies policy by noting that American carriers were only using 39 percent of their current passenger rights for flights between Manila and US cities.

He noted that United Airlines had already suspended its flights to the Philippines, while Northwest Airlines had cut its Manila services by 33 percent due to diminished market demand.

Zapanta proposed that negotiations focus on issues other than on an open skies policy during the deferment period.

He said the government should ask the United States to open up its domestic sector to Philippine carriers to offset American carriers' existing "fifth freedom advantage" to carry traffic between the Philippines and cities in Asia, Australia, the Middle East and Europe.

He said PAL was hopeful that the United States would take the delay as a constructive step toward a more mutually responsive bilateral aviation relationship much like the renewed Philippine-US relations seen in the "Balikatan" military exercises.

PAL's petition came in the wake of US Ambassador to the Philippines Francis Ricciardone's lobbying to the Philippine government to resume negotiations for an open skies policy to increase seating capacity and frequency of flights between the United States and the Philippines.

The American Chamber of Commerce urged the government to push for an open skies policy with the United States because the Philippines had been getting a shrinking market share of Asian tourism.

Amcham claimed that more direct international flights to more airports within the Philippines were urgently needed to reduce travel costs, promote tourist and business travel and benefit overseas foreign workers.

Apart from the United States, PAL has openly blocked the adoption of an open skies policy with other countries, such as Singapore and South Korea, because the status quo keeps the competition within a limited flight frequency and seating capacity.

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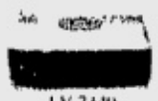

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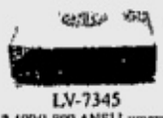

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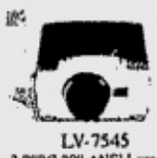

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PLDT buyout is Big John's last bid to be No. 1

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TAIPAN John Gokongwei is called "Big John" largely because of his wide girth and his passion for big business. But Gokongwei has never been the biggest in any of the major industries that he has dipped his hands into—from food to banking to retailing to property development.

Now, in the twilight of his business career, Gokongwei is on the verge of living up to his "Big John" moniker.

Gokongwei's bid to take over First Pacific's controlling interest in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Bonifacio Land Corp. would propel him to the zenith of the Philippine telecommunication industry and hand him the title to the biggest, undeveloped central business district project in the country.

A source said Gokongwei has everything to win and nothing to lose in the deal. Gokongwei was ready to spend $300 million to build Digitel's mobile phone operations to make the cell phone wars a three-pronged affair. But the First Pacific deal allowed him to use the same amount of money to indirectly acquire the No. 1 mobile phone operator in the country, Smart, by taking over PLDT.

To sweeten the pot and make it more difficult for other parties to match or better his offer, Gokongwei offered to include Fort Bonifacio in the deal. Gokongwei offered to buy Fort Bonifacio at the same price that BLC has been peddling the property to foreign investors over the past few years.

PLDT/ C2

MVP regains spirit, strength to fight battle of his lifetime

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER steering investments of more than $2 billion in the Philippines through Hong Kong-based conglomerate First Pacific Co. Ltd., Manuel V. Pangilinan is suddenly facing the possibility of being eased out of the country's dominant carrier where he is president and CEO.

This is because retail and real estate.taipan John Gokongwei made a bid for the 24.4 percent holdings of First Pacific in the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and the Hong Kong firm which Pangilinan helped build.

But nobody expects Pangilinan, more commonly known in the business community as MVP, to go out without a fight.

Pangilinan is opposing the deal and is working out a management buyout with the support of big names such as J.P. Morgan, Merrill Lynch, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. and former PLDT president Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco.

His battle to retain his position might prove to be the greatest challenge in his life.

For the past two weeks rife with rumors and speculation, MVP has been under a lot of stress and tension.

After Tuesday's stockholders meeting though, Antonio Samson, president of PLDT subsidiary Mediaquest disclosed that the PLDT's top man is regaining his fighting spirit and his strength.

MVP/ C2

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'Stakeholdership', corporate responsibility and the ethics of managerial conduct

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Niceto S. Poblador

ONE of the hottest and most contentious topics of discussion nowadays among business and academic circles is corporate responsibility and the related issue of corporate governance.

While there is widespread agreement as to what constitutes "good" corporate behavior, the usual basis for the acceptability of business practices are long established and universal norms of conduct about which there can be no quarrel. Who is to argue against fairness, or honesty, or concern for others? There is much less consensus, however, as to ***what these ethical norms imply for corporate strategy and for operational decisions made by corporate managers.*** When it comes to the nuts and bolts of managerial decision making, corporate statements of "core values" are of little help.

In addressing the issue of corporate responsibility, many progressive companies have been taking a more serious look at their system of management oversight. They are reworking the administrative control mechanisms that are intended to insure that the interests of the various groups that have a stake in the organization—investors, customers, creditors, workers, and the community at large—are taken into account in the running of corporate affairs.

The reform of corporate governance is actively being supported by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). For the purpose of providing a set of guidelines for redesigning corporate governance mechanisms, the SEC has recently come up with a "Code of Corporate Governance" (SEC Memorandum Circular No. 2, Series of 2002).

It prescribes, among other things, the size, composition and qualifications of the board of directors, and provides for mechanisms for disclosure and transparency.

It is worthwhile noting, however, that the Code, by and large, is concerned primarily with the interests of corporate shareholders. While the Code provides for the inclusion of independent directors in the boards of public corporations, these are still to be elected by shareholders.

Nowhere does the Code specify what constituencies these independent directors are supposed to represent. There is no explicit provision in the Code for board representation of other stakeholders in the company such as its employees and customers. The Code's silence on the environment and other concerns of the community is also disconcerting.

The growing awareness among corporate managers of the need for reforming corporate governance, and the active involvement of the SEC in this endeavor, should be applauded. However, current debates on the matter are mostly about policies, procedures and formal implementing mechanisms. Little has been done to address the ***substantive*** issues that underlie these mechanisms.

To be sure, these mechanisms provide a set of potentially effective ***constraints*** on managerial abuse. But given the area of latitude within which managers can operate, these same mechanisms do not provide any meaningful ***guidelines*** for action. From a given set of feasible options, which one should the manager choose? And, more importantly, ***why***?

To answer that question in any meaningful way, ***we have to know just exactly what the purpose of the organization is.*** And herein lies the rub.

Contending viewpoints

A generally accepted goal of the firm, one which is consistent with classical economic theory, is the maximization of its market value. However, this theory has been shunned by many "progressive" managers and academics because they regard it as self-seeking, and concerned exclusively with the interests of the owners of the firm.

By contrast, "Stakeholder Theory" (stakeholdership, for short) prescribes that managers should be concerned with the interests of all groups that have a legitimate stake in the corporation. This alternative framework has been gaining more and more adherents in recent years. Indeed, it serves as the main rationale for current thinking on corporate governance.

On closer examination, however, stakeholdership may turn out to be more of a catchy phraseology than a theory. To begin with, it has no concept of what economists call "equilibrium," the imaginary point towards which a system tends to gravitate. But more seriously for the practicing manager, ***it provides no rational basis for action.***

The crux of the matter

In more precise terms, our main concerns are twofold: (1) How do we specify the firm's ultimate objective or goal? (2) How can we pursue this goal in such a way as to satisfy the needs of all groups that have a stake in the enterprise? If we can come up with a precise statement of the firm's ultimate goal (that is, specify clearly what economists call its "objective function"), then we have a basis for defining ***rationality***. If we can come up with a set of criteria for meeting the needs of all corporate stakeholders, then we have defined in operational terms ***what is and what is not ethical behavior***.

In other words, what we are looking for is a set of guidelines that will make managerial decisions ***both rational and ethical at the same time.*** Is this a quixotic quest, or is it something worth exploring?

Closer look at stakeholdership

The concept of stakeholdership, as currently articulated, is flawed for a number of reasons:

(1) By failing to specify corporate goals in terms of a single, well-defined variable, stakeholdership fails to provide a rational basis for choice. While stressing the interests of all stakeholders in an enterprise is well taken, stakeholdership fails to provide a rational basis for establishing tradeoffs among these oftentimes conflicting interests. This puts decision-makers at a loss in deciding whether one course of action is to be preferred over another.

(2) As a consequence of (1), managers have to be "empowered" to exercise their discretion, subject only to ***incompletely specified*** constraints. Managers are able to maneuver within their specified areas of accountability and can divert corporate resources in pursuit of their own interests. This enhances what economists call "agency costs."

(3) Stakeholdership unnecessarily politicizes the corporation by sharply drawing the boundaries between the interests of one group and those of the others. As a consequence, the enterprise emerges as a zero-sum game, and the stakeholders are put in a confrontational relationship vis-à-vis one another.

Lost is the idea that their concerns are mutually interrelated.

Enlightened value maximization

As a possible way out of this dilemma, a noted economist has proposed what he calls "Enlightened Value Maximization" (EVM) as a theoretical basis for managerial action and corporate governance.

In this version of the traditional theory, the goal of the firm is NOT to maximize its market value as such but to ***enhance*** it. Any course of action is rational if it results in an increase in the ***total*** value of the enterprise, taken here to mean the long-term value accruing to ALL stakeholders and not just that of the shareholders. Within the EVM framework, the corporate manager is seen as a "value seeker" rather than as a "value maximizer."

As a rule, the various stakeholders of an enterprise have conflicting interests. They do have one goal in common, however, and that is to realize a net economic gain (or surplus) from each transaction they enter into.

All economic exchanges are intended to create value for both parties to the transaction. For example, when a customer purchases a product, she does so knowing that the perceived value of the product is higher than the price paid for it. The difference is the net economic value gained by the consumer, or what economists call "consumer surplus." In this same transaction, the seller also realizes a surplus which is equal to the difference between the price and the cost of producing the product.

It is also true that corporate decisions typically serve the conflicting interests of many, if not all the stakeholders involved. Notable examples include:

- Competitive strategies that are focused on creating consumer value
- Measures intended to enhance worker productivity through various types of profit-sharing arrangements
- Environment-friendly policies that are designed to enhance corporate image (and hence, the firm's long-term profitability)

By and large, however, the interests of one stakeholder can only be pursued at the expense those of others. The following are typical examples:

- Efforts to seek protection from imports knowing that consumers will suffer as a result
- Investments that result in severe damage to the environment
- The employment of child labor

In handling issues of this nature, the ***enlightened*** manager must weigh the benefits enjoyed by one stakeholder against the costs incurred by another. For example, the short-term profits gained from employing child labor should be weighed against the life-long economic suffering that will be endured by such young workers. In the case of activities that degrade the environment, the immediate gains to the firm and its workers—indeed, of the economy as a whole—must be weighed against the potential damage to the environment and the resulting decline in future economic output.

Decisions in which the overall economic gains exceed the overall economic costs are, by our definition, ***rational.*** For example, the decision to upgrade worker retirement benefits that results in a decline in long-run corporate profits is rationale if the resulting enhancement of worker value more than offsets the fall in shareholder value. Obviously, such an act is also ***ethical***. Paradoxically, however, a decision to reduce worker compensation or to retrench some workers in order to insure the continued survival and profitability of the enterprise may also be both rational and ethical.

Ethical, we must stress, because if we allow for time for economic forces to work themselves out, economic society as a whole benefits.

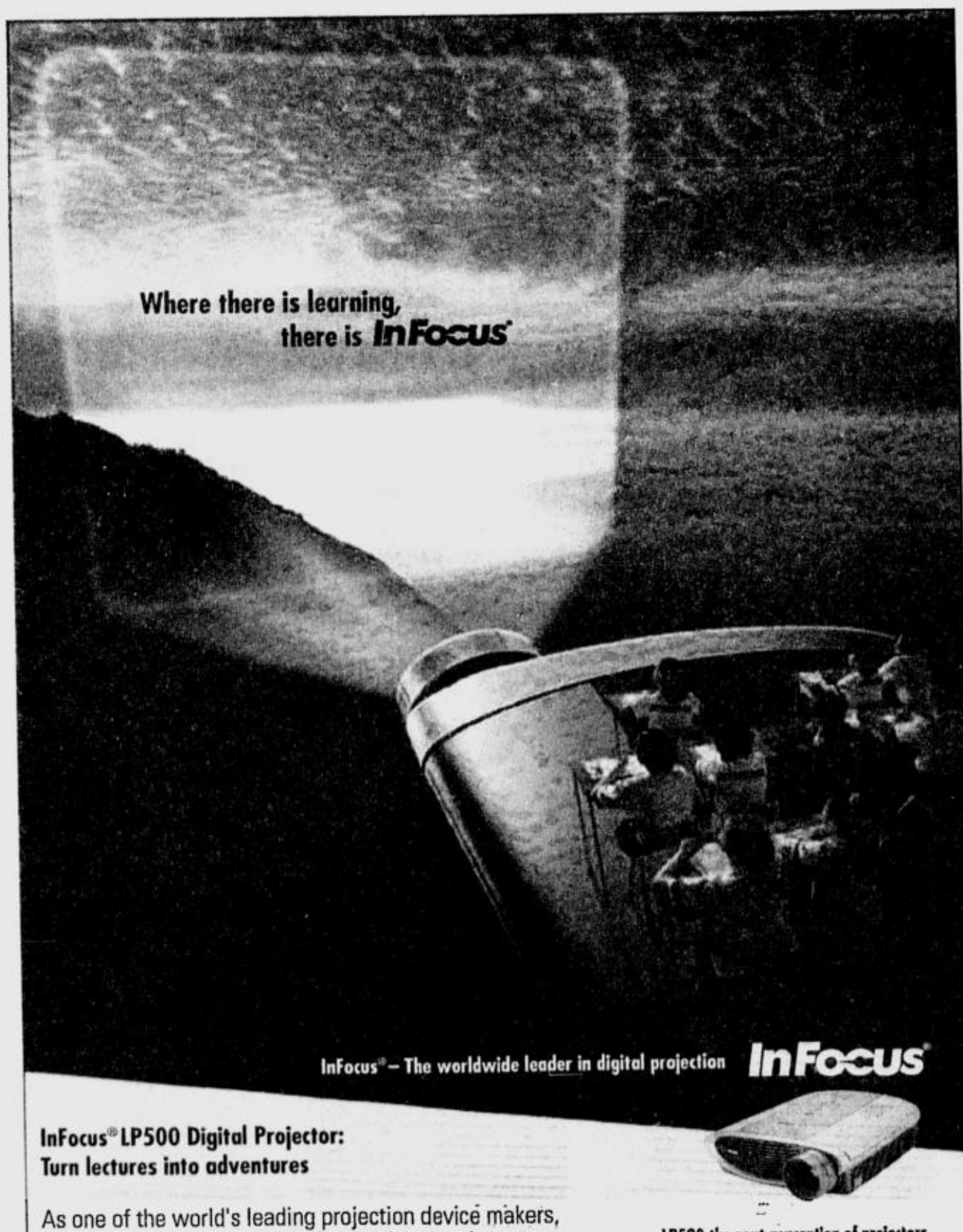
Our definition of ethical is very difficult to accept. It is not easy for most of us to think of an act as being ethical knowing that particular individuals (especially those personally known to us) may suffer as a result of a corporate decision. We tend to have a closer affinity to a few warm-bodied individuals whom we know of or who are part of our extended selves, compared to the countless but faceless and nameless individuals who nonetheless are affected one way or another by our choices. In the realm of social policy, this is reflected in our desire to protect inefficient industries in order to save the jobs of a relatively few. Seldom do we realize that such protective measures are disadvantageous to consumers who will be forced to pay higher prices for their purchases. Moreover, they prevent the movement of productive resources to activities that are more value generating. The inevitable result is that society as a whole suffers. This many of us fail—or refuse—to see.

Enlightenment requires that we extend our realm of interests to the countless others who will be affected by our choices. We must look at the ultimate impact of our decisions on society as a whole.

Clearly, we speak here not only ***moral*** enlightenment but of ***perceptual*** and ***cognitive*** enlightenment as well.

What is needed is a system of corporate governance that will not just insure that things are done by the books. We must look for governance mechanisms that will insure that what is done by the books takes into consideration not only the interests of one group, but also those of others that have a rightful stake in the enterprise.

(This article reflects the personal views of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines, Professor of Management at the De La Salle University Graduate School of Business and Professorial Lecturer at the University of the Philippines School of Economics. The MAP Secretariat and the author may be reached at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)



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MVP regains spirit . . .

From page C1

"He got a huge lift after the stockholders meeting. He feels a lot better now than (the week before last). The stockholders meeting was a very important milestone because a lot of things were put to rest there, including speculations on who would sit on the board," he explains.

Support for MVP

Around 1,000 employees, as well as those of its subsidiaries, showed their support to MVP and to PLDT chair Antonio "Tony Boy" Cojuangco during the stockholders meeting.

PLDT special assistant to the president Rene Meily says this is no surprise as MVP really took care of his employees.

Pangilinan burst into the telecommunications scene in 1998 when First Pacific acquired controlling share in PLDT. He also convinced the Hong Kong-based conglomerate, of which he is executive chair, to invest in the local property sector through Fort Bonifacio Global City developer Metro Pacific Corp.

Under his leadership, PLDT maintained its dominance in the local landline market, cornering 70 percent of the pie. MVP later expanded into wireless with the acquisition of Smart Communications Inc.

His vision is for the company to be a "technology conglomerate" is to be achieved by way of a "convergence strategy."

Reversal of fortune

But the reverse happened with Metro Pacific. First Pacific invested heavily on the property firm in the wake of the 1997 Asian financial crisis. Now, Metro Pacific is groaing under the weight of a P12.5-billion loan to local banks alone.

The business grapevine had it that the Salims of Indonesia, majority stockholders of First Pacific, were very unhappy with the Philippine investments as it caused them huge losses and this supposedly caused a rift between the Salims and MVP.

But there been no confirmation of the rumors and Pangilinan remained as chair of the First acific group during the last shareholders meeting.

But making the decision to invest heavily in the Philippines—and losing heavily as well—is not something that MVP regretted doing.

"MVP has brought in substantial investmentsin the country to further develop the business but this tends to be taken for granted," Smart's public affairs head Ramon Isberto says.

Even if some of his local investments reportedly had a bad impact on First Pacific's overall financial profile, MVP did not turn his back on his countrymen and did not even think of pulling investments out of the country.

"He came to the Philippines to help lift the standards of any organization he joins. He wants to make this country world-class," Meily says.

Ironically, MVP was never the "leader type" when he was still in college at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Samson, a fellow economics major, says the young MVP "was more of a solo worker."

But MVP has proven that leadership skills can be acquired over years of experience.

Before joining First Pacific, he worked in Manila for the Philippine Investment Management Consultations Inc. and in Hong Kong with Bancom International Ltd. and American Express Bank.

He joined these companies after getting his MBA degree from the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce at the University of Pennsylvania. He graduated cum laude from Ateneo before that.

Workaholic

But his academic and business prowess was not achieved overnight. It came with hard work that could be traced back all the way to his college years.

Samson relates that MVP was the type of student who would submit an 80-page term paper when the teacher require only 10 pages.

MVP's speeches, for example, are revised and refined up to delivery. Samson said MVP "is his own speechwriter. He's a perfectionist in the sense that he always wants to find the right words and the right expressions."

Isberto adds that it is unusual to find a PLDT or a subsidiary's office empty at 7 p.m. "If an employee leaves, it's like he just came in for half a day of work."

He adds that MVP's work ethics and dedication to his job had a "trickle-down effect" on the rest of the company and its subsidiaries and affiliates.

"It has certain effects on the organization. If you know that the top man doesn't spare himself long hours, it has a trickle-down effect," Isberto explains.

MVP's pet peeve, according to him, is when managers do not take responsibility for their actions.

Samson said MVP preferred to lead by example than to order people around, so he also expected his managers too as he does.

So then why is "Big John" doing everything he can to get PLDT and Metro Pacific?

"I don't think it's personal. It's a business issue and not a personal issue. They both have business objectives that they want to achieve, and one may be standing in the way of the other," Samson says.

PLDT buyout . . .

From page C1

The implications of a successful Gokongwei conquest of PLDT and Fort Bonifacio have not been lost on his fellow taipans (Metrobank chair George Ty, retail king Henry Sy, and former Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco) and business rivals (the Ayala and Lopez groups).

Gokongwei's rival were not too keen on having one of their fiercest rivals taking control of one of the most vital industries in the country's economy. Also, Gokongwei's control of Fort Bonifacio would make him a powerful force in the real estate sector.

This should explain why no other takeover battle in the country's corporate history has involved so many business icons.

A source in the Gokongwei camp said: "All of the taipans have this raging, personal ambition to be No. 1 in the industry that they are in. When their status is threatened, they naturally move to protect their positions."

Sugar exec believes good you do goes back tenfold

By Mel Magsino
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BALAYAN, Batangas—When his father told him that to really understand the sugar business, he must be down to earth, Luis Ramos didn't just think of humility, he even went down to the sugarcane fields and planted sugarcane.

A director of the Batangas Sugar Central now, he has never been ashamed of what he did as a sugarcane planter in 1952.

"What is there to be ashamed of? As one of the directors of the sugar central, I am at the best advantage because I know how to propagate sugarcane," Ramos, now 76, said.

In the family

Ramos came from a family of sugar businessmen in Balayan. His family owned one of the town's biggest sugarcane plantations.

Belonging to the landed families of Balayan, his family was one of the biggest sugar traders of the province.

His family sent him to the Ateneo de Manila University to finish elementary and high school. But in the year that he was supposed to graduate, World War II began.

Instead of getting his high school diploma, which he got 17 years late, he was issued a pistol when he joined the guerrilla forces in 1942.

The rich boy from Balayan learned how to fight off Japanese soldiers and was in the army brigade that liberated the town.

His interrupted schooling and combat experience in the mountains did not stop him from continuing the family business.

He finished college at the University of Sto. Tomas and returned to Balayan to do business.

"After the war, we had to rebuild and restore, and we had to move on. After college, I told my father that I wanted to join the sugar business. But he said I should be down to earth to really understand the business," Ramos said.

With the plantation's *kasama* or tenants, Ramos started planting sugarcane in the family-owned plantation.

As a planter and businessman, he was the first to introduce fertilizer to the sugar plantation. Some of the fertilizers, he said, were purchased from Germany.

He was also the one who trained the tenants how to fully utilize the fertilizer. Since then, sugar production in the plantation doubled and even tripled.

"In the sugar business, it is very difficult if you are an absolute landlord. You should show your tenants that you know how to run the business. In my case, I've even become an expert planter," Ramos said. "The business is in the family, but if you learn to do it by heart and love every part of it, everything comes easy."

Longest serving mayor

Ramos' close relationship to the *kasama* gained for him wider popularity. In 1955, he ran for mayor of Balayan and won the race.

He founded the Balayan National High School and for 31 years as mayor, he used his salary to pay the school's teachers.

He also sold 300 hectares of his inherited sugarcane plantation to fund his projects as mayor of Balayan and help the people who came to him for assistance.

"I believe in karma. If you do good to people, the good you do will come back ten-folds to you," Ramos said.

He served as town mayor until 1986 when the Aquino administration identified him as a Marcos supporter and replaced him with Ben Martinez as officer in charge.

Martinez ran for mayor in 1971 but was defeated by Ramos.

Ramos has become Balayan's longest serving mayor for 31 years.

"After the end of my political career, I just had a short vacation and went back to the sugar industry where I came from," he said.

With the 75-ha sugarcane plantation left from his inheritance, Ramos again became a sugar trader and one of the directors of the Batangas Sugar Central.

Ramos also organized the Sugar Planters Association where he is now the president.

"The first thing we did that time was to find better sugarcane varieties to boost sugar production," Ramos said.

Modernization

Knowing the trend in sugar production, Ramos introduced modern farming equipment to the sugar planters.

"We tried to appeal to the government for support when the sugar industry was on a downtrend, but to no avail. So we just took it to ourselves to continuously improve our product," he said.

Sugar production has a trend, according to Ramos. "If it goes down this year, the next one will be better."

For Ramos, the downtrend is the best time to prepare for the better production in the coming year. The lifting of the tariff on sugar has also greatly affected the sugar industry as more sugar traders imported sugar that competed with local production.

"As a trader who used to be a planter, I know how the market works, and if cheaper imported sugar competes with our own, it will be a catastrophe," Ramos said. "But we worked on to counteract the lifting of the tariff."

As globalization came in, signaling defeat to the local sugar industry, Ramos said they have found a way to compete globally.

"You just have to modernize and find better ways of planting, harvesting and milling the sugarcane," he said.

But having to constantly improve sugar production means lesser manpower. Ramos has the tenants work in the farm using modern equipment and techniques, doubling sugarcane production every year while helping them get work and livelihood.

No more politics

Ramos has abandoned all plans of getting into politics again.

"Why should I?" he said. "You can help people and still not get your hands dirty in our present-day politics."

From the air-conditioned offices of the sugar central, Ramos still goes to the hot and humid sugarcane fields to check on the planters and the sugarcane production.

"Once a sugar planter, always a sugar planter," he said, "It's something I could never take out of my system, especially when I know the deepest meaning of going down to earth."

LUIS Ramos (3rd from left) opted to become a farmer to better manage his family's sugarcane farm in Balayan.

Ounce of gold...

From page C4

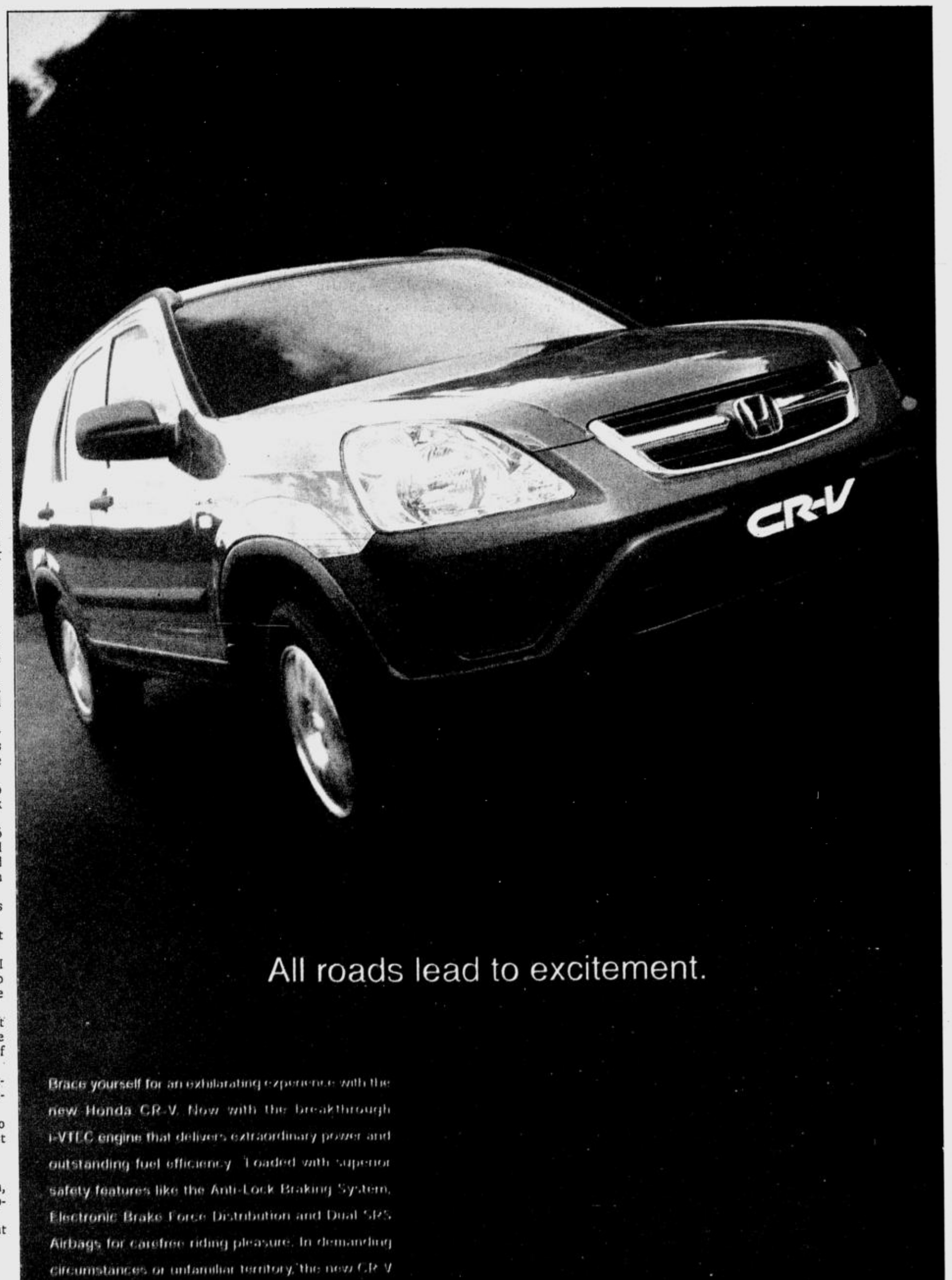
spired to put gold back on the investment map.

Since the attacks, gold has risen 22 percent to $331 an ounce, its highest since October 1999, and some analysts believe this is the first leg of a long-term revival for the yellow metal.

On Wednesday, spot gold was valued at $319.30.

"The Sept. 11 attacks showed that the big safe haven of the US is not necessarily the safe haven that many had hoped, and so they are now looking for diversification of assets," said Robert Clapham, director, Precious Metals at Scotia Mocatta.

"The majority of the gold price has been in war jitters and uncertainty," said Clapham, who forecasts gold will reach $400 an ounce or higher in the next 12 months.



Ounce of gold's value, a gentleman's suit?

HONG KONG—In days past when exchange rates were stable and inflation was low, the purchasing power of an ounce of gold was said to be the cost of a gentleman's suit or a dinner for two at a good restaurant.

Today investors use more sophisticated ways to try to value gold, linking it to other commodities or financial markets, like Wall Street's benchmark Dow Jones industrial average.

After gold's steady 22-year price decline, it would be easy to say the precious metal is yesterday's asset especially when even central banks, usually bastions of conservative investment policies, no longer want too much gold in their vaults.

But gold has suddenly sprung to life again prompting many to look for ways to forecast its price and wonder if the yellow metal will return to its heady 1980 price of $850 an ounce.

A fall in US interest rates to 25-year lows, the Sept. 11 attacks, the US-led war on terror and rising tensions between India and Pakistan have con-

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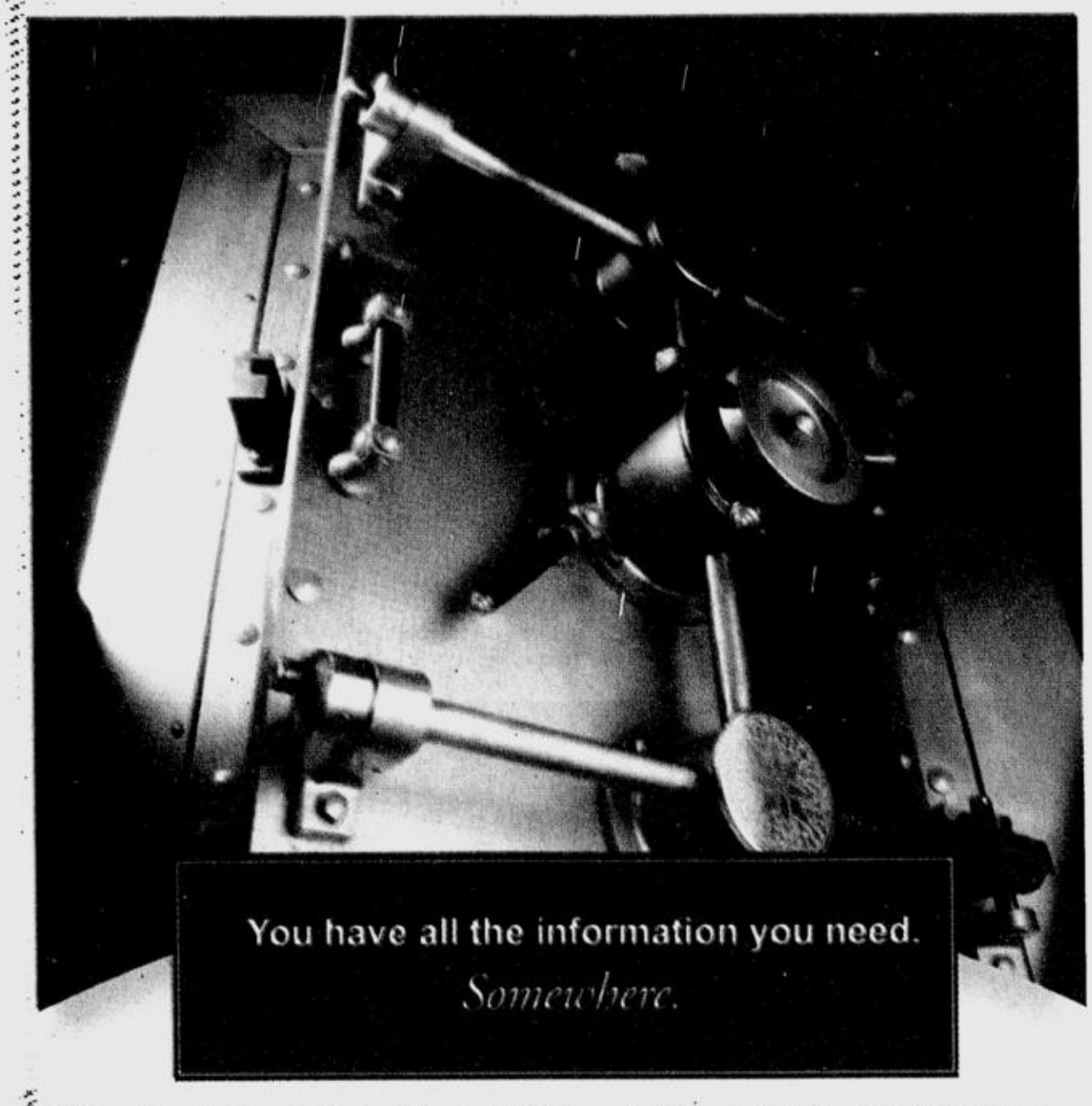

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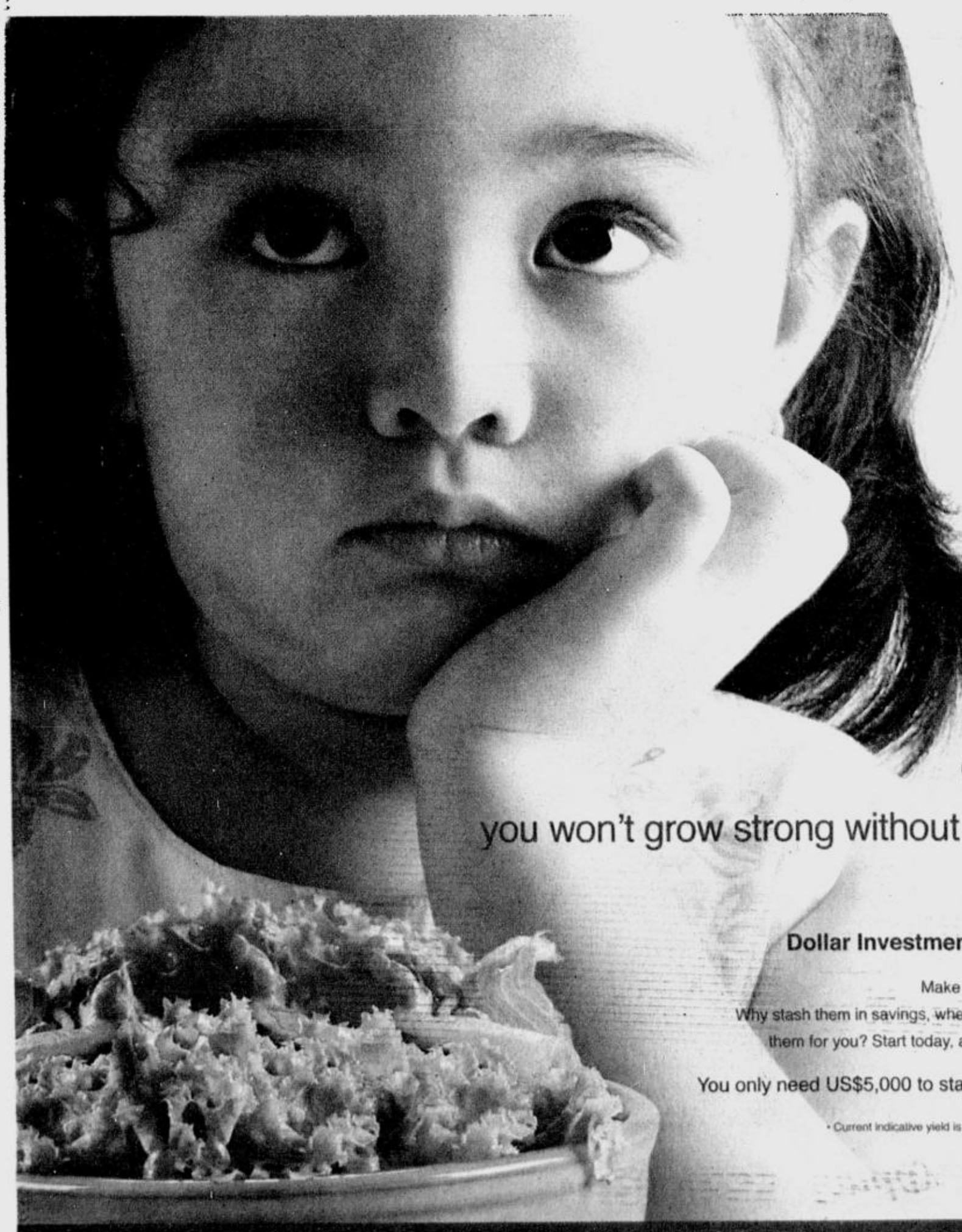

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Lights of the world

Text and photos by Manuel M. L. C. Noche
Contributor

Even in a state of disrepair, the Spanish colonial lighthouses, testaments to Spain's commitment to modernize the Philippines, never fail to impress

IN THE 1880s, the Spanish colonial government undertook a massive construction frenzy. Its main goal: to protect the ever-increasing maritime trade the Philippines was then experiencing. With the end of the famed Manila-Acapulco Galleon trade, the Philippines was opened to a wider network of international

LIGHTS/ p.D2

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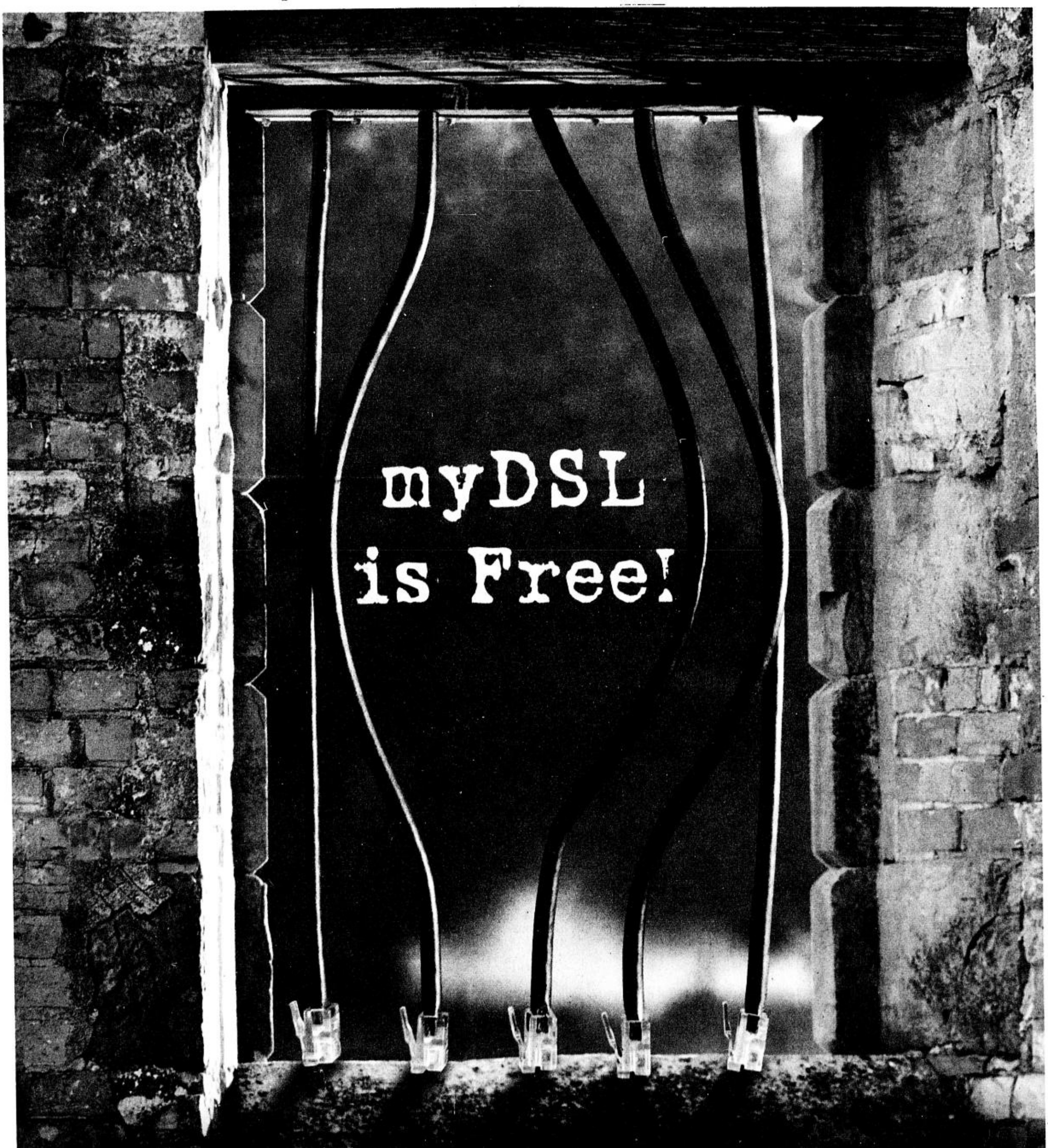

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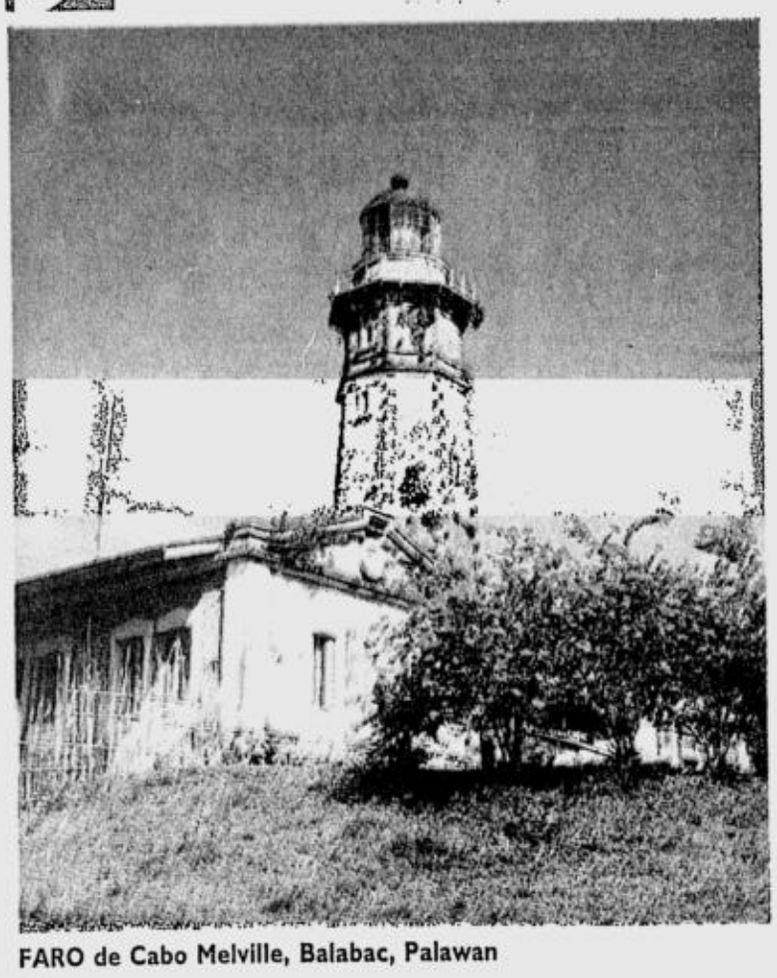

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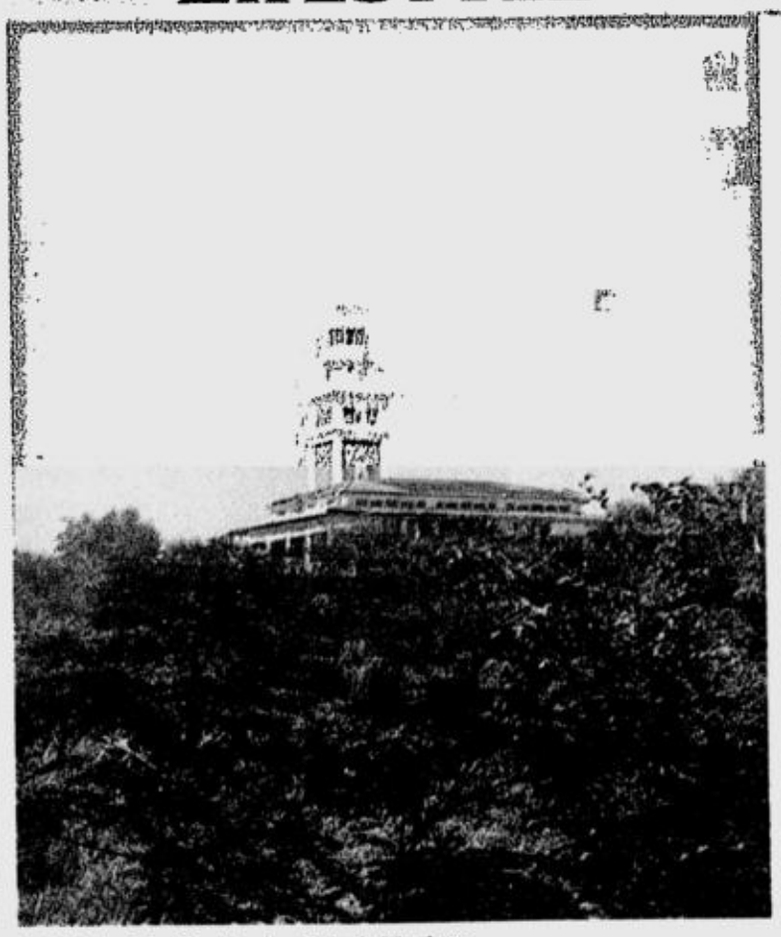

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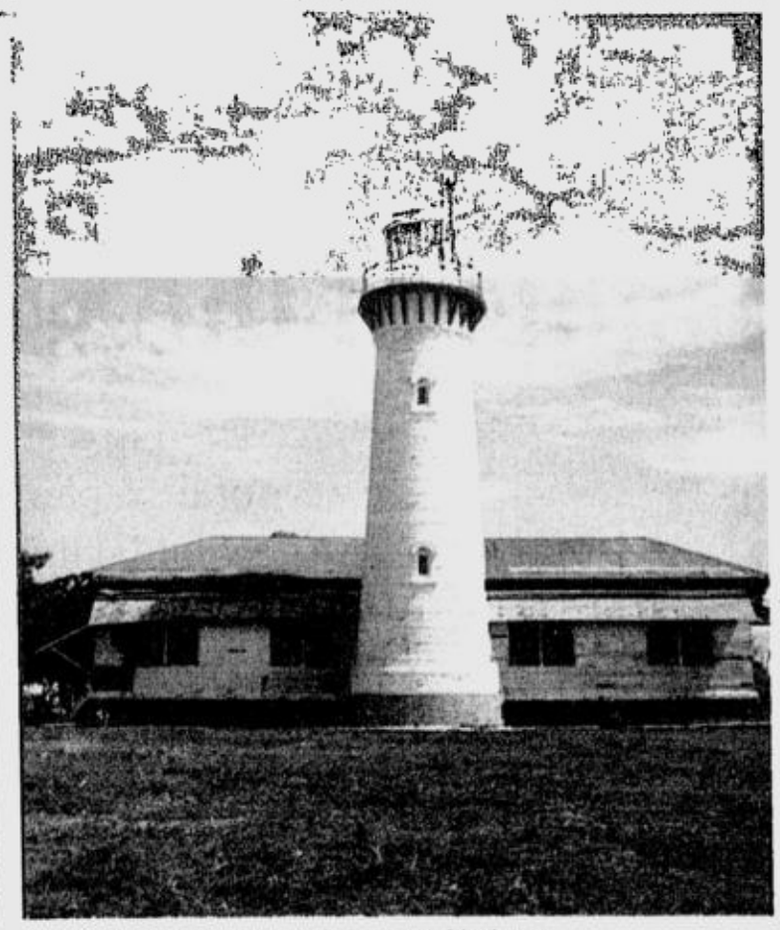

FARO de Cabo Santiago, Calatagan, Masbate

Lights of the world

From page D1

trade. This required more shipping routes to and from the islands, as well as more connection between Manila and beyond.

In the absence of modern satellite or radar technology, navigators at that time relied heavily on astronomy, on stars to map and chart their courses. Though medieval, this proved adequate, considering that explorers were able to find their way around the globe with nary an accident. But to further ensure the safety of the galleons—by these time coal-burning transport ships laden with precious commodities—further guides were needed to bring the ships safely into harbor or open waters. This brought about the construction of *faros* (lighthouses) throughout the archipelago.

Lighthouses in the Philippines are nothing new. The oldest lighthouse in the country was erected in the 16th century, almost at the onset of Philippine colonization. This lighthouse, located at the mouth of the Pasig, guided navigators to the banks of the river, which served as the main port of Manila, the capital of colonial Spain in the Orient. Centuries would progress with the Philippines comfortable with the wealth that the Galleon trade would bring, but not a single lighthouse—except for the one located in the mouth of the Pasig as well as fires lit on top of Corrigedor Island—was built.

By the 19th century, toward the end of Spanish colonization, the Spanish colonial government undertook a massive lighting of our seas. The Plan General de Alumbrado de Maritimo de las Costas del Archipelago de Filipino (Masterplan for the lighting of the Maritime Coasts of the Philippine Archipelago) was undertaken by the Inteligencia del Cuerpo de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos (Corp of Engineers for Roads, Canals and Ports).

The task was to light the seas and channels of the country to guide ships in and through the most important sea channels to the ports of Manila, Iloilo and Cebu. This plan, which was drafted in 1857, was immediately set into action with the preparation and eventual construction of roughly 70 lighthouses all over the archipelago. Of these, 22 were of major construction works while the rest were of lower classification lights.

Functional and beautiful

Spanish engineers were tasked in the preparation and supervision of these lighthouses, such as Guillermo Brockman, Magin Pers, Eduardo Lopez Navarro, Ramon Ros, Enrique Trompet Vinci, Alejandro Olano, who designed structures that were functional, comfortable and beautiful as well. These structures located in the most beautiful and spectacular sites, lonely isolated islets, cliffs, barren rock outcrops, bluffs, capes and points are testament to the commitment the Spanish colonial government to modernize the Philippines and make it competitive at the dawn of the 19th century.

Designed in the prevailing renaissance revival style as well as the Victorian style of architecture, these structures, composed of tower, pavilion and service buildings, were built to house the lights as well as the keepers who would man them. The tower, the most significant part of any lighthouse, was made strong and tall to ensure visibility at any given condition.

FARO de Punta Bugui, Aroroy, Masbate

The pavilion, on the other hand, was designed to accommodate the lighthouse keeper and his family whose role it was to ensure that the lights were lit every evening and that the prisms or *fresnel* lens were rotating. Two service buildings, usually flanking a grilled courtyard, would contain kitchens and *almacenes* or storage rooms for the combustible materials that were used to light the tower. An outhouse situated a few meters away from the complex served the toilet needs of the keepers.

Different towers were designed by the Corp of Engineers. The most significant were those made of masonry of either brick of stone. We visited several of the lighthouses and of these, 13 towers were built of masonry: Faro de Cabo Engaño, Isla Palaui, Santa Ana, Cagayan; Faro de Cabo Bojeador, Burgos, Ilocos Norte; Faro de Punta Capones, Islote de Capon Grande, San Antonio, Zambales; Faro de la Isla de Cabra, Lubang, Mindoro Occidental; Faro de Rio de Pasig, Binondo, Manila; Faro de Isla Corrigedor, Cavite; Faro de Punta Malabrigo, Lobo, Batangas; Faro de Cabo Santiago, Calatagan, Batangas; Faro de Islote de San Bernardino, Bulusan, Sorsogon; Faro de Punta Bugui, Aroroy, Masbate; Faro de Isla Gintotolo, Balud, Masbate; Faro de Cabo Melville, Isla Balabac, Palawan; and Faro de Punta Capul, Capul, Samar del Norte.

Towers of metal were also fabricated. These towers, known as *tourelle*, were made and manufactured in France and could easily be assembled on site. Such towers are found still standing at Luz del Puerto de San Fernando, San Fernando, La Union; Luz de Isla Bagatao, Magallanes, Sorsogon; Faro de Islote de Siete Pecades, Dumangas, Iloilo; and Faro de Punta Luzaran, Nueva Valencia, Guimaras.

Though the towers of Faro de Islote de Manigonigo, Caries, Iloilo; Faro de Sibulac-Babac de Gigantes, Estancia, Iloilo; and Faro de Isla Calabazas, Ajuy, Iloilo have been replaced with modern aluminum towers and lights, they originally contained metal *tourelle* towers. Metal towers, too, were used for Faro de Islote de Tanguingui, Bantanyan, Cebu, and Faro de Islote de Capitancillo Tobogon, Cebu, supported by metal framework. These towers were able to rise taller than the *tourelle*, which had a standard height of six meters.

The main pavilion of the lighthouse, which is elevated from about a meter to over 3 meters above ground, is used primarily as an office for the assigned engineers as well as living quarters for the lighthouse keepers and their families. For first-, second-, third- and even to some extent sixth-order light stations, complete dwelling facilities are provided for. Though those which are within easy access to communities are provided only with the most basic of shelters, as surmised in the Luz del Puerto de San Fernando and Luz de Isla Bagatao. Both being sixth-order stations, their original quarters were of light materials. Only during the American Commonwealth Period were permanent quarters built.

Pavilions

The pavilions were built of the same materials as the tower, either locally sourced granite or locally made bricks. Hard wood, such as *molave*, *tindalo* and *narra*, were used for the beams, joists, trusses, floors, nailers, doors and windowsills. Walls were plastered and painted with some examples stenciled with interesting. Marble, clay tiles or plain cement finishes were used for the verandah. Decorative metal grilles surround the fence, balconies as well as the bottom level of windows. Corrugated iron sheets cover the roof.

Most first- to third-order lighthouses are equipped with two to four quarters, each provided its own receiving area. An office for the on-duty engineer is also provided. This office, which normally has a view of the sea, is also used as the lighthouses' watch room. In most cases, this watch room is accessible to the tower. A hallway, which bisects the pavilion in two, is commonly provided for. This enables the engineers and keepers easy access from their rooms to any part of the building. A verandah is situated either in front or at the rear of the building.

For Faro de Islote de San Bernardino, Faro

LIGHTS/ p.D3

FARO de Isla Calabazas, Ajuy, Iloilo

FARO de Isla Cabra, Lubang, Mindoro Occidental

Lights of the world

FARO de Islote de Capitancillo, Tobogon, Cebu

From page D2

de Punta Malabrigo, Faro de Punta Bugui, Faro de Isla Gintotolo and the Faro de Punta Capul, a surrounding verandah is provided. Finally, basic furnishing such as *camas*, *escritorios*, *mesas*, *sillas*, *armarios* and *estantes* are provided.

Today, these lighthouses built by the Corp of Engineers of the Spanish colonial government are in various states of disrepair or ruin. Some are in admirable condition, such as those of Faro de Cabo Bojeador, Faro de Punta Malabrigo, Faro de Cabo Santiago, Faro de Isla Gintotolo, Faro de Siete Pecados, Faro de Cabo Melville (which still retains its original first order *fresnel lens* and could be made operational again with minor repair work), and Faro de Isla Corrigedor, which was restored by the Cooperacion Español. Others are in need of immediate attention, such as Faro de Punta Capones, Faro de Sibulac-Babac de Gigantes, Faro de Isla Cabra, Faro de Islote de San Bernardino, Faro de Punta Capul and Faro de Punta Bugui (with its third-order lens still intact). Though some are still repairable, there are a few which are today sadly in total ruin. Lighthouses such as those in Cabo Engaño, Islote de Tanguingui, Islote de Capitancillo, Punta Luzaran, Islote de Manigonigo and Islas Calabazas are in total ruin and would need massive amounts to restore and made habitable again.

But what is the point of restoring, when these lighthouses do not function the way they did a hundred years ago? True, these lighthouses are still needed to light our seas. The tower receives numerous funding for its modernization and upkeep, with most towers retrofitted with modern solar light, thus necessitating the removal of historic bronze cupolas and its inch-thick *fresnel lens*. With the towers automated, the need for lighthouse keepers to man such structures is obsolete. Today, lighthouse keepers have an easier task, visiting towers only once in a while to replace busted bulbs and to do minor maintenance work. But with funds scarce, the damages wrought by over 100 years is too daunting.

The Spanish colonial lighthouses still serve their master well. Guiding ships to their ports of call, these structures, stripped of their dignity, still stand proud in their lonely windswept location. Yet even with time and the elements acting against them, the beauty that the Spanish engineers erected on our soil cannot be erased. It is time that we, the inheritors of this patrimony, should do what we can to ensure their survival for the next 100 years. For these lights not only guided a nation to progress, they also lit the souls and imaginations of those who chanced upon them.

The essay is based on a study conducted by the author on "Spanish Colonial Lighthouses in the Philippines" through grants received in 1998 from the Ministry of Education and Culture of Spain under the program, "Towards a Common Future," and from the Center for Intercultural Studies of the University of Santo Tomas. Throughout the study, from 1998 to the present, 24 Spanish colonial lighthouses all over the country were visited and studied. A detailed assessment of their conditions was conducted and recommendations made to the Coast Guard of the Philippines for their restoration.

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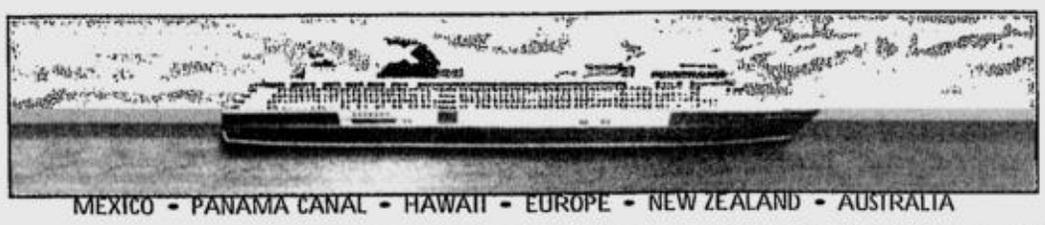
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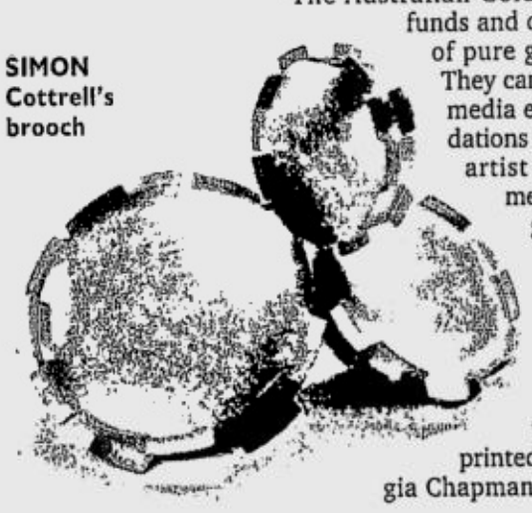
Gold in its manifold manifestations

By Constantino C. Tejero

"GOLD—one of the seven deadly metals—invites and mirrors many facets of our human nature, including power, greed and beauty," says leading Australian painter Caroline Williams.

To mark the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold in Victoria, its capital city of Melbourne invited 10 artists from six cities of the Asia-Pacific region to put up an exhibition on the legacy of gold, featuring five types of visual art: painting, textile, metalsmith, goldsmith and glasswork. Five artists from Melbourne were paired with five artists from Mumbai, Seoul, Osaka, Singapore and Manila, each pair representing an art form.

The Australian Gold Council provided funds and donated two ounces of pure gold for each artist. They came up with a mixed-media exhibit called "Foundations of Gold," where each artist shares the beauty, meaning and dreams of gold.



SIMON Cottrell's brooch

The exhibit includes paintings using gold leaf, by Caroline Williams and Philippines' Brenda Fajardo; textiles woven and printed with gold, by Georgia Chapman and India's Monika Correa; glass using gold luster, by Pamela Stadus and South Korea's Kim Ki-ra; jewelry using gold from old computers as well as new gold, by Blanche Tilden and Japan's Makiko Mitsunari; and tableware in pairs, by Simon Cottrell and Singapore's Eugene Chua Gin-Minn.

KIM Ki-ra's platter

The touring exhibit is now in the country. Presented by the Embassy of Australia and Asialink, the alluring objects can be viewed until June 22 at the Upper Gallery of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila.

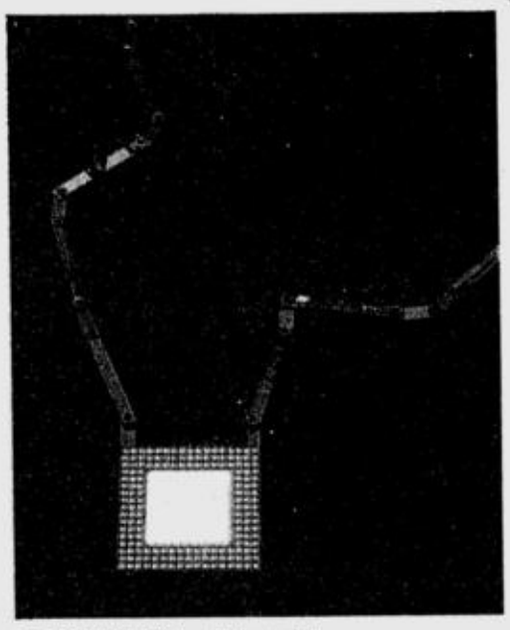
GEORGIA Chapman's seductive fabrics evoke Oriental opulence.

Gold as metaphor

"Gold is a special metal," says Terry Burgess, chair of the Australian Gold Council. "It has a symbolic and emotional resonance for most cultures as well as it being the foundation of most economies."

This special quality is better appreciated in the exquisite contemporary art and crafts now on display at the Met. It's not just the intrinsic value of the metal but also its aesthetic appeal as well as its use as metaphor to tell the narrative of a people.

Fajardo, in her quest for Filipino identity and consciousness, includes gold in her work primarily to represent the spiritual—"much as we see it in icons, Persian miniatures and Japanese screens," she says. As contrast, she uses subdued tones to indicate life in the material world.



BLANCHE Tilden's jewelry

In "Gintong Bayan," done in acrylic and gold leaf on canvas, depicting people massing at Edsa in one of the Filipinos' perennial revolts, the gold of the sky as backdrop of the statue of Our Lady represents the realm of the spirit. The gold outlining each dark-brown human figure could be a person's spiritual aura.

But the gold motif is also used as reminder of the plunder of the country from precolonial times to the present, as can be seen in the other pieces in the series. Gold here is the power and greed of colonizers and politicians, multinationals and foreign powers.

The motif is repeated in "Ang Gaga" (a throwback to the artist's tarot series), "Katarungan," "Gintong Kahapon" (proto-Malays with gold jewelry), "Gintong Pakay" (the colonizers represented in a procession of Our Lady, Japanese soldier, American Thomasite), "Gintong Maskara" (death mask, Ferdinand Marcos, George Washington, street protesters), "Gintong Lipunan" (gold KKK logo of winged eye against blood-red).

Gold as accent

For Williams, gold represents both success and failure, as can be seen in her pieces done in oil and gold leaf on canvas. In one, the 1850s Victoria gold rush giving way to a bloody uprising was, to the artist, "a great failed political moment." In another, the aboriginal athlete Cathy Freeman winning in the Sydney Olympics is a golden moment of racial pride and national triumph.

Both painters here use gold as metaphor running through the histories of their countries.

The metalsmiths, however, have chosen not to use it as metaphor or symbol but strictly for its physical properties. Contrasting bits of gold with gray and brown metals, they have lifted drab materials to the realm of art.

Working on the subdued metal alloy monel and using gold only as accent, Gin-Minn and Cottrell have created exquisite objets d'art out of sugar bowls, cups, paperweights, brooches, pens, pillboxes.

Mitsunari and Tilden have cannibalized the computer, stripped it of its gold electrical conductor and other metal elements, and come up with jewelry consisting of gold wire, silver SMD resistors, ceramic condensers, computer chips, motherboard, central processing unit, bi-axiel capacitor, anodized aluminum—"wearable jewelry of both delicacy and mechanical authority."

The glass and textile artists use it for aesthetic reason, that is, for its visual and tactile appeal. Among the most beautiful objects in the exhibit are Kim's platters of slumped glass and gold leaf and Stadus' bowls of sand-cast glass, gold luster and gold leaf.

GOLD/ p.D5

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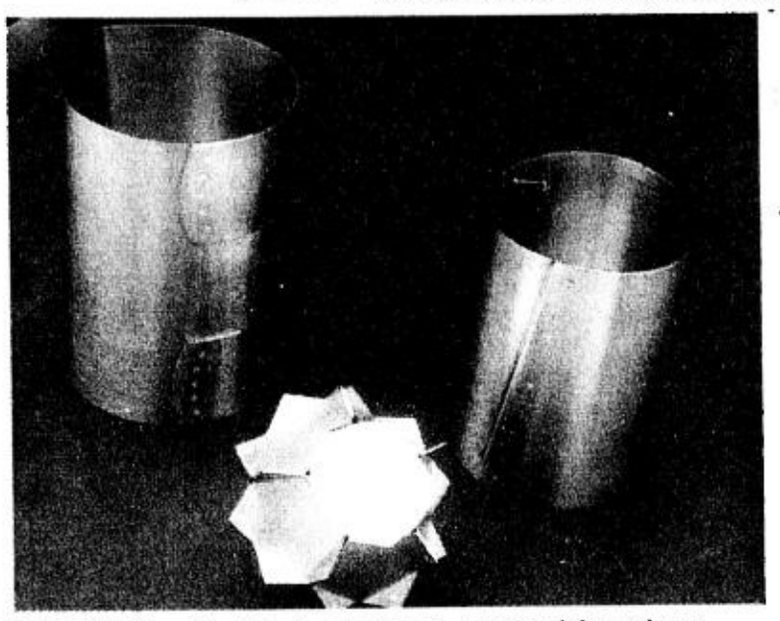
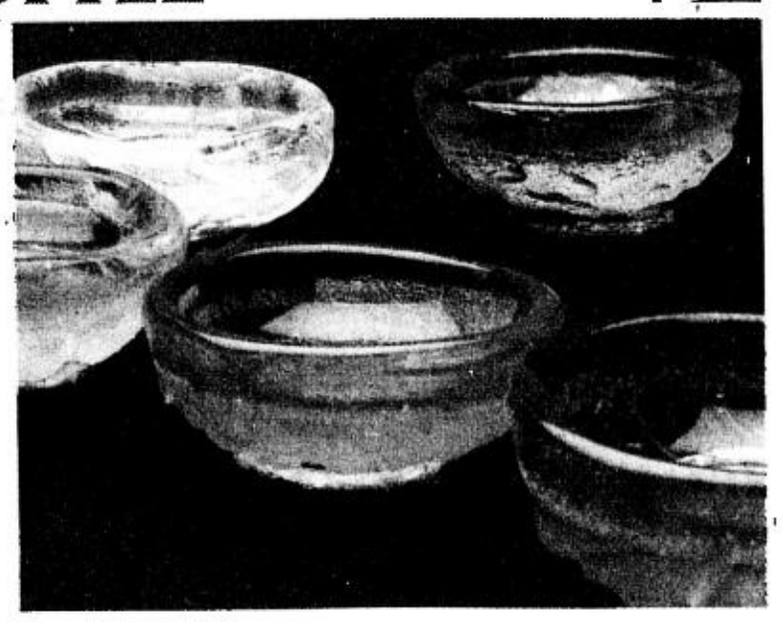


EUGENE Chua Gin-Minn's sugar bowl, paperweight and cup



PAMELA Stadus' bowls

Gold in its manifold manifestations

From page D4

In the former, the gold drops against transparent glass evokes "a pure and everlasting form." With the latter, the flecks of gold seen through colored glass draws in the viewer a giddy sensation.

Gold as symbol

Meanwhile, to Chapman, gold symbolizes purity, desire, abundance, and so she seeks to create seductive fabrics evoking Oriental opulence. She ransacks the textile traditions of the ancient worlds and comes up with fabrics that are dyed, over-dyed, printed, pleated, embellished with handmade beaded tassels, gold beads, printed gold leaf.

"I design my fabrics to evoke the senses, radiate timelessness and sensual appeal," she says.

Handwoven cloth that's natural and pure she has blended with synthetic ones "to create fusion of East and West, old and new, traditional and contemporary craft practice." To achieve rich texture for a gown, she has sewn together strips of various fabrics: silk satin, silk viscose velvet, organza, silk viscose satin, unbleached combed pure cotton with gold *zari* thread.

In contrast, Correa applies minimalism on her tapestry, "to evoke a serene mood of meditation." She utilizes the utmost simplicity of design, with the geometric reduced to a single circular gold motif above the rectangular gold border on the fabric.

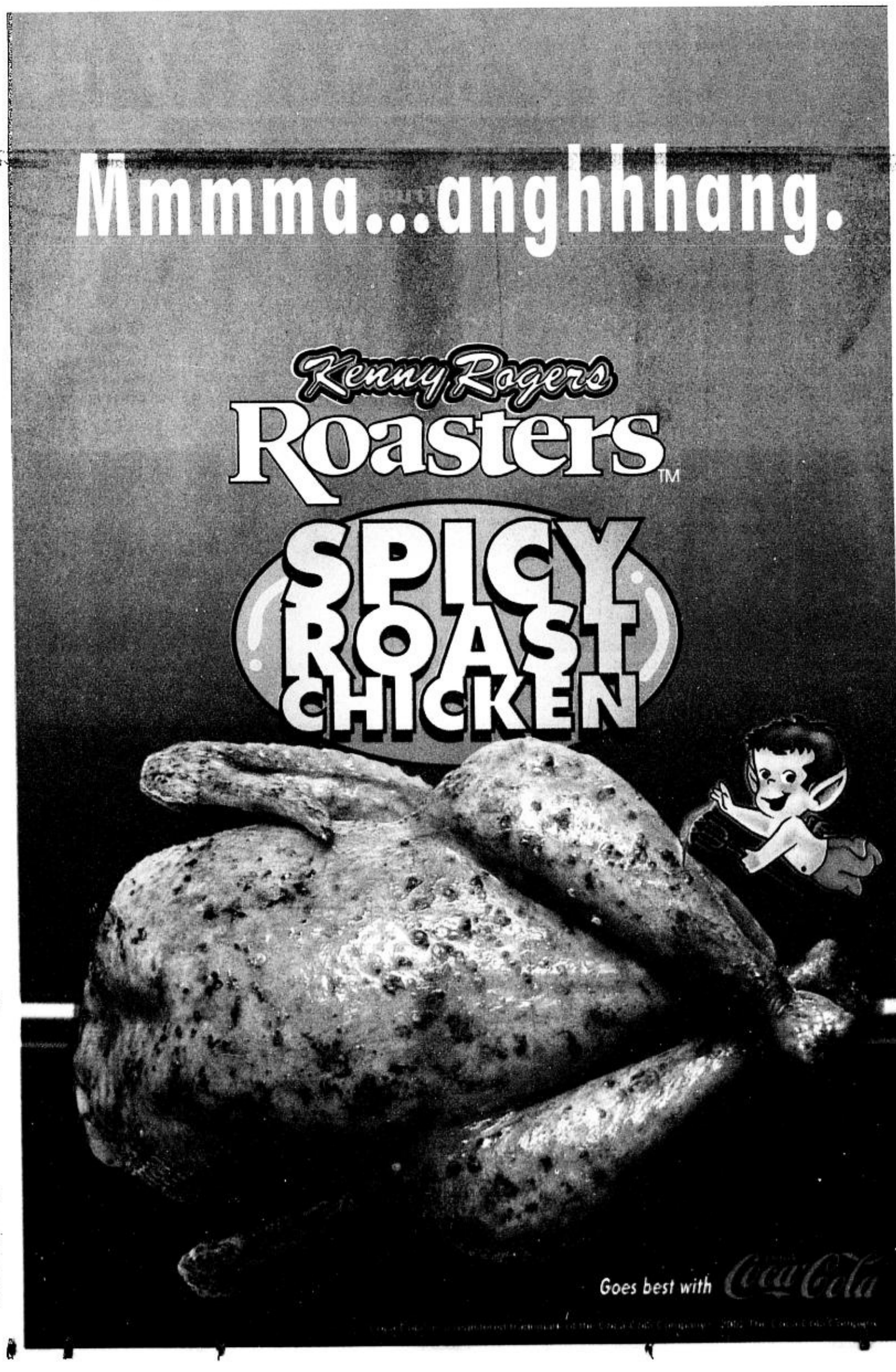
CAROLINE Williams' portrait of athlete Cathy Freeman

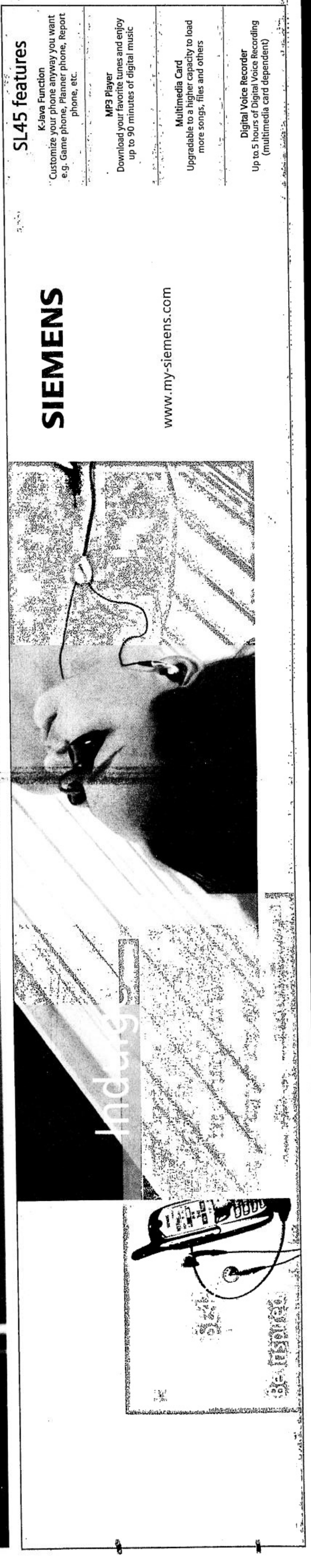
Says she: "The pleasure of weaving is the joy of seeing form and color gradually unfold and come to life through the movement of our fingers—partly through chance, and partly through the expressive qualities inherent in the materials themselves."

But even here the textile artist is using some symbolism, "to express the mythic imagery of gold—as a primordial circle of energy, floating like a gilded sun over the gold-laden earth."

Seeing the shimmering opacity of gold *zari* thread against the white transparency of unbleached cotton yarn, the viewer can barely check the impulse to touch the material. Because of the richness of the gold, though cotton, the fabric approaches the visual appeal of the fabled silk of Benares.

Only art has the transformative power to push this heavy yellow-orange substance beyond its mere economic value. As Stadus says: "Gold evokes metaphors of seductive and allusive states of mind, ideal places and perfect rationales of being."





From Italian don to Mindanao sultan

Now a naturalized Filipino and a sultan, Italian Armando de Rossi wants to make a difference in Mindanao

Text by Christian B. Bautista
Contributor
Photos by Kenneth Tagaban

LANAO folk bang the gongs to welcome the new sultan.

NEW Sultan tries throne for size.

MAY 19 proved to be quite a day for civil engineer Armando de Rossi as he was conferred the title of Sultan Macapundeg Ko Ranao Ragat in Malabang, Lanao del Sur. The date, also his 60th birthday and the 25th anniversary of his arrival in the Philippines, made him the first-ever foreign-born person to be given the honor in Lanao. To add to the revelry, the conferment was made the culmination of the town's week-long fiesta celebration.

The title, meaning "Sultan-Benefactor of the People of Lanao Lake," was conferred on the Italian-born De Rossi for his contributions to the development of the province. Initially setting foot in Mindanao as area manager and senior resident engineer of the National Power Corporation's (NPC) Agus 3 and Agus 7 hydroelectric projects in Iligan City, De Rossi endeared himself to the local folk by constructing school buildings and mosques out of his own pocket.

Living in Mindanao for 14 years, De Rossi quickly developed a close friendship with the locals. "The people were so genuine. I really loved them," said De Rossi. His love for the Mindanao folk hasn't diminished over the years as he frequently visits the island despite residing now in Manila. In his acceptance speech, he said, "Today is very important to me because I have been crowned as your brother."

Laguna roots

Spending his first four years in the Philippines as resident engineer and consultant to the NPC's construction of the Kalayaan Pumped Storage Plant in Lumban, Laguna, the Italian native quickly made a difference as he was voted Rotary Club president of Pagsanjan. Because of his achievements as Rotary Club president, along with his work in ELC-Electroconsult, the town passed a resolution declaring him an adopted son of Laguna.

DE Rossi with lovely wife Bal Lilibeth

After the completion of the $500 million Agus 3 and Agus 7 projects, he was assigned abroad to oversee a multi-million-project in South America. Turning down a lucrative salary of $120,000 excluding benefits, he took the job of vice president and general manager of the agricultural venture Matling Group of Companies.

In 1986, De Rossi took part in the uprising against former President Ferdinand Marcos as the only civilian member in the 103-man armed contingent from Mindanao, heeding the call of the Enrile-Ramos faction that overtook Camp Crame.

The following year, De Rossi proved invaluable in the search and rescue operations for the ill-fated Philippine Airlines flight PR443 that crashed in Malabang. Providing an airplane with a pilot for the three-day search, De Rossi also negotiated with Muslim rebels to allow an Army rescue team to reach the crash site.

For his tireless civic work, De Rossi was again declared an honorary Mistah of PMA "Matikas" Class of 1983. But the most important recognition for him came in February 2001, when he was finally granted Filipino citizenship by the House of Representatives.

Sultan's duties

"As Sultan Macapundeg, he controls everything," said Pepito Manaloto, finance officer of CMC Di Ravenna Construction Corporation, where De Rossi is currently Southeast Asia regional director. Though the Sultanate has no direct influence in government, De Rossi still vows to make a difference. "I will see that the welfare of my people are protected. If they have any problem, they can come to me," he said.

The royal houses of the Sultanate of Lanao have welcomed De Rossi to their ranks. "They asked me to sit with the Sultanate, to work for peace and prosperity in the area. Especially this town (Malabang)," he said.

This early, De Rossi already has plans to build infrastructure to help the dominantly agricultural town. "The farmers here need help. They lack roads from the field to the market," he said.

He also stressed the importance of education to help create opportunities for his "constituents", adding that a college is needed in the somewhat isolated town.

With the position, De Rossi wishes the Sultanate would have more input on how things are ran. "The Sultanate of Lanao should have more say. They know what exactly is going on. The government should have more dialogue with them," he said.

Security

The honor is quite exceptional as it comes at a time when Mindanao is marked as a danger zone for foreign nationals. When he first arrived in Lanao, De Rossi said the situation was not as bad as it is today. "On those days, kidnappings were not as rampant as they are now," he said.

Despite security problems, De Rossi has managed to co-exist with Muslim rebels. "I know who they are. I sometimes talk to them," he said.

De Rossi adds that it is just a matter of knowing where he can go. "You have to know how to move around. Choose the areas you go into. Sometimes, they tell me it's too dangerous, or they accompany me," he said.

DE Rossi confers with Muslim elders.

DE Rossi gets symbols of sultan's authority from Mayor Anwar Balindog.

AMBASSADOR Juan Rocha, Spanish Ambassador Tomas Pantoja and Pilina Rocha

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Queen's golden jubilee sparks royal fever in Manila

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardoni

PORTUGUESE Ambassador Joao da Silva

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

NEWLY arrived British Ambassador **Paul Dimond** and his gracious wife **Carolyn** were the hosts on June 5 at the celebration not only of the Queen's birthday, but of her golden jubilee as well. It was all patriotic fervor at the festivities when the military band played and everyone stood to sing "God Save the Queen" and the Philippine National Anthem. Foreign Undersecretary **Franklin Ebdalin** did the toasting honors together with Russian Ambassador **Anatoli Khmelnitski**, the vice dean of the diplomatic corps.

For the historic festivities, the extensive grounds were spruced up with purple and gold balloons as well as a screen where milestones from the Queen's life were shown. The garden was ringed with buffet tables prepared by the Inter-Continental Hotel that included yummy crepes with chocolate cream sauce.

Among British friends were **Ann** and **John Hawkins, Jan Clemo, Brian Murray, Heather** and **Ken Price**, honorary consul for Cebu **Maura Jackson** and others too fervent to mention. Among the gentlemen were such well-tailored types as US Ambassador **Francis Ricciardoni** who should be back in the United States by now to drum up investors for the Philippines (after the Burnham disaster, he must be joking), Spanish Ambassador **Tomas Pantoja**, Canadian Ambassador **Robert Collet, Ramon Ilusorio**, who is willing to exchange his problems with mine (thanks, I like mine better), Justice Undersecretary **Dodong Teehankee**, and Italian Ambassador **Umberto Colesanti**, and others of the same sartorial ilk.

RUSSIAN Ambassador Anatoli Khmelnitski, Carolyn Dimond, Ambassador Paul Dimond and Undersecretary Frank Ebdalin

LIBYAN Ambassador Salem Adam and Nigerian Ambassador Chief Rayo O. Inije

CHILEAN Ambassador Carmen Lynam and Tessie Luz

Former President **Fidel Ramos** took time out from dodging political brickbats from "Oh, no, it's Sonny" to put in an appearance, as did **Luisa Perez Rubio** whose association, Philippine Businessmen for Social Progress, has a deal going with the Brits in Mindanao, **Johnny** and the elegant **Pilina Rocha, Tessie Luz, Cora Alvina** of the National Museum, whose budget has been slashed by 44 percent so you walk around unlit corridors, not to mention Meralco cutting the power off twice. Charming people—the Meralco. There were also **Michael Hermann**, Spanish-speaking GM of the InterCon in serious conversation with Portuguese Ambassador **Joao da Silva**, Ambassador **Enrique** and **Letty Syquia**, Consul **Evie Costa**, Chilean Ambassador **Carmen Lynam** and French Ambassador **Renee Veyret**.

The band went on to play popular music and as the dozens of guests left, they received beautiful, long-stemmed yellow roses to remind them of the momentous occasion.

German design contest open to Filipinos

BRAUN GmbH is inviting industrial designers worldwide to participate in the 2003 BraunPrize International Competition.

Open to industrial designers worldwide who are still studying or who completed their studies after March 8, 2000, participants are free to choose their product ideas. In sponsoring the competition, Braun seeks to promote the work of young designers from all over the world, recognize the work of design schools and help develop a greater appreciation of the factors and criteria which make for good product design.

The competition also aims to make the ingenuity and creativity of young designers accessible to the public, and thus, provide a link between young designers and industry.

The winner will receive 11,000 German francs or a paid six-month internship in the Design Department at Braun. Another 14,000 German francs will be shared by the other finalists. The number of finalists will be determined by the jury.

The best entries from the competition will be presented in the traveling BraunPrize Exhibition.

All documents for the first stage of the competition must have reached Braun by Jan. 31, 2003. Entry documents should be sent in an envelop marked "BraunPrize" to: Braun GmbH, Postfach 1120, D-61466 Kronberg.

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Tres Acidos . . .

From page D8

York, NY. The exhibit ends Sept. 13. Call 924-8375 or (0917) 540-2097.

THE ANTIPOLO Thursday Group of Artists will hold a one-day Arts Festival 9 a.m.-4 p.m., June 20, at the Crescent Moon Café, Antipolo. Paintings and crafts will be on sale. Participating artists include Amor Quiniones, Andy Urag, Arlene Villaver, Bambi Locsin, Biboy Delotavo, Emma Gutierrez, Inday Cadapan, Lea Lee, Maridee Espina, Mawen Ong, Ofelia Manapat, Pilar Paterno, Pal Mesina, Remy Boquiren, Rogie Gapayo, Rosalyn Donato, Sheila Tiangco, Susan Hassig, and Tess Allgaen. Call 630-5854.

HAND-BUILT pottery is on view at The Crucible Gallery, 4/L of SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Dubbed "Lupi-luping Lupa," it features 19 works by Joey Yorac made from hand-built clay slabs. All pieces—glazed and unglazed—are functional vessels. Each piece is a unique, one-of-a-kind creation. The exhibit runs until June 23. Call 635-6061.

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Fine Arts students RG Habulan, JP Tiangco, Mona Carillo, Red Redrico, Maynard Enrile, and Scott present "First Time Mo?" at the Pilo Restaurant along Katipunan Ave. The exhibit is currently on view until June 24. Call 437-1013.

THE AYALA Museum in the old Makati Stock Exchange Building presents "Treasures at Ayala Museum," featuring some of the museum's finest pieces from its archaeological, ethnographic and fine arts collections spanning prehistory to the present. The exhibit includes rare 19th century albums from Jose Honorato Lozano and the atelier of Damian Domingo, ivory sculptures by Leoncio Asuncion, and paintings by Juan Luna, Fernando Amorsolo and Fernando Zobel. Also included are excellent examples of stone tools, artifacts from the Cordilleras and Mindanao, and jewelry from the Spanish colonial period. The exhibit will run until July 31. Call 812-1191 to -95 local 103.

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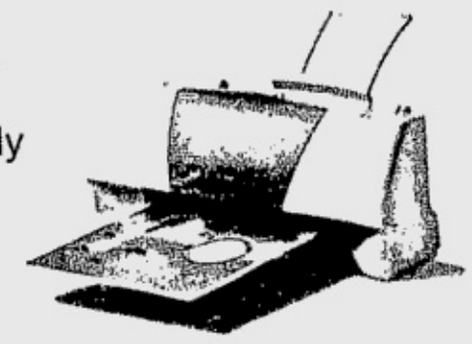

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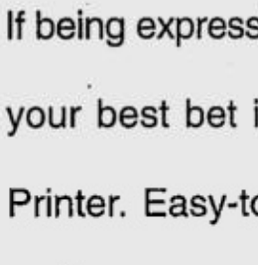	BC1-21 Black	P255.00
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NORTHERN Samar Gov. Raul A. Daza (fourth from right) with members of the Calbayog Art Association, who are exhibiting their works at the lobby of the Capitol building. The exhibit is in connection with the 37th Foundation Day of Northern Samar on June 19. Also in photo are Guido A. Lavin Jr., Danny Celum, Manding Toleza, Aris Ventures, Arnel de Silva, Mercy Garcia and Oscar Munje.

Tres Acidos in Cebu, Tacloban artists mark city's fiesta

TRES ACIDOS, the art group composed of Kiko Escora, Ronald Ventura, Butch Payawal, Joel Mendez and Andres Barrioquinto, will hold "Soft" at the Art Center of SM City Cebu from June 23-July 14. Each artist will present a large work and six smaller works in what Escora says as "looking at things on a softer perspective." Ventura backs away from his forthright, intensely drawn subjects while Payawal returns to his dreamy, whimsical style. Mendez goes local and adapts his Warhol-inspired portraits to prominent Cebuanos such as Jing Ramos, Carmen Go, Debbie Enriquez, Maybelline Te and Butch Carungay. Barrioquinto shifts to landscape, presenting the calm before the storm. Call (032) 231-0557, 231-3446 or telefax 231-2079.

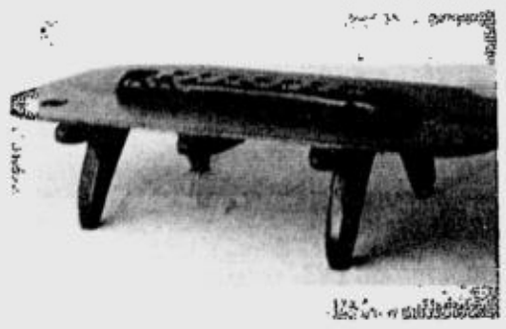
VISUAL ARTS

JOEL Mendez of Tres Acidos

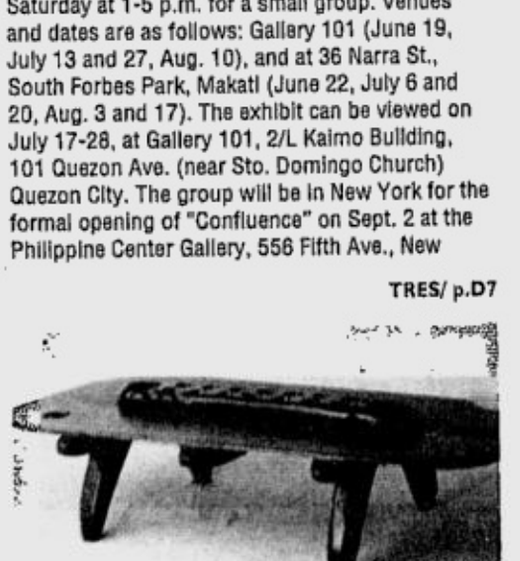
CRISPIN Asensi, Dante Enage, Rico Palacio, Atilda Pamen, Ed Rompal, Lorenzo Tuazon, Leo Villaflor, Ernie Ybañez, and Archie Zabala of the Kasikasi Art Association of Tacloban are holding "Pahanungod," a group show of paintings and mixed-media works with local themes to celebrate the coming city fiesta. The show will be held June 20-July 25, at the Leyte SMED Center, Capitol Grounds, Tacloban City.

STUDIO 241 and J.O. Tolentino Communication Consultancy present "A Confluence of Diverging Views by Six Filipino Artists" featuring the recent works of Hermes Alegre, Fatima Antonio-Baquiran, Remy Boquiren, Edgar Talusan Fernandez, Caloy Gabuco and Jonathan Olazo. The pre-departure preview-exhibit is on June 28, at Artspace 3/L Glorietta 4, Makati City. The show will run until July 7. The group is also conducting a portrait session every Saturday at 1-5 p.m. for a small group. Venues and dates are as follows: Gallery 101 (June 19, July 13 and 27, Aug. 10), and at 36 Narra St., South Forbes Park, Makati (June 22, July 6 and 20, Aug. 3 and 17). The exhibit can be viewed on July 17-28, at Gallery 101, 2/L Kaimo Building, 101 Quezon Ave. (near Sto. Domingo Church) Quezon City. The group will be in New York for the formal opening of "Confluence" on Sept. 2 at the Philippine Center Gallery, 556 Fifth Ave., New

TRES/ p.D7



JERUSALINO V. Araos' sculptures are featured by Gardenia Bakeries (Philippines) Inc. in the show "A Celebration of Wood and Form" at the Laguna International Industrial Park, Mamplasan, Biñan, Laguna. The exhibit features some of the sculptures shown last year at the anniversary exhibit of the National Museum. Call 845-0971 local 35.



"OVERFLOWING Abundance" by positivism exponent and painter E. R. Tagle, will be on view June 28-July 30 at Skyline Gallery Restaurant, 8/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Proceeds of the show will benefit poor children being mentored by Tagle.

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Lion City roars, artistically

Story on page E2

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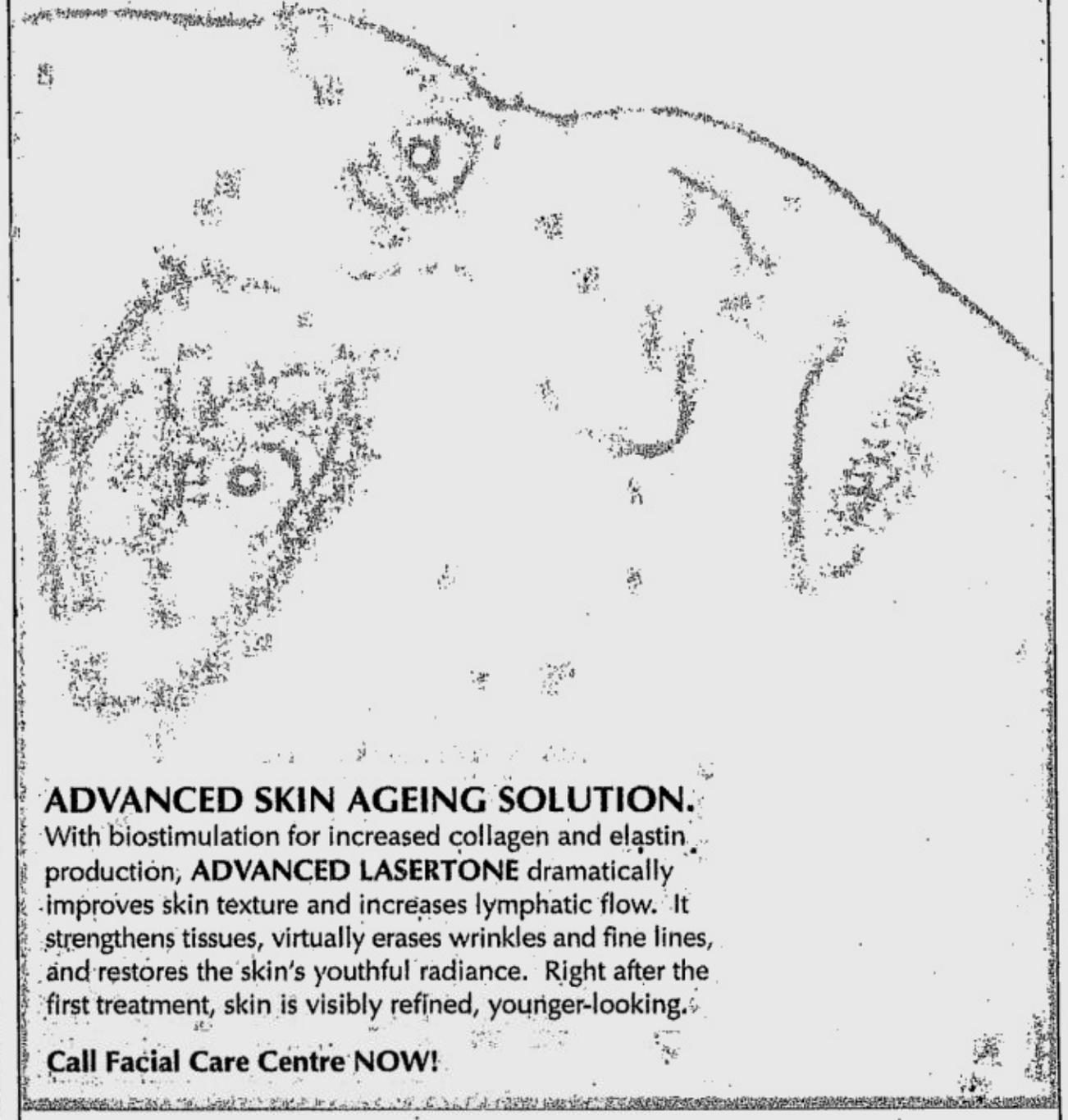

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"MULTIPLICITY" by Spain's national dance company

This year's Singapore arts festival offers a multi-faceted, comprehensive, interesting—and yes, exhausting—playbill

Lion City roars, artistically

By Linda B. Bolido

THE STREETS of the tiny city state of Singapore are decidedly looking more crowded these days. Of course, shopaholics are coming in droves to take advantage of the nationwide grand sale, which offers discounts up to 70 percent.

But many have not even set foot inside any of Singapore's shopping malls. With a month-long art festival ongoing at the same time, the most fanatic culture vultures have only time for a quick nap and a change of clothes in between performances if they do not want to miss anything on the performance list. Singapore Arts Festival 2002, which has lined up programs for all ages, revolves around the theme, "Move with the Flow."

Between May 30 and June 23, Singapore has listed more than 300 performances—an average of 10 shows a day—by local and visiting artists/groups from over 16 countries. There are visual and performing arts presentations, dances and plays, art exhibits and musical concerts, contemporary and traditional works. In addition, there are also lectures, workshops, seminars and conferences.

The country's five Community Development Councils participating in Arts on the Move are offering over 200 performances for free.

Photography fest

The Photographic Society of Singapore, in collaboration with Alliance Francaise de Singapour, hosts the biennial Month of Photography from Paris while the Singapore Art Museum has brought in 79 of acclaimed French sculptor Francois August Rene Rodin's works, including the best-known "The Thinker" and "The Kiss."

Malaysian playwright and director presents the one-actor "Occupation," this year's festival commission, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Japanese Occupation of Singapore and Malaya; and Singapore's Chay Yew offers "The Morning People," his adaptation of Anton Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard."

Spanish dancer-choreographer Nacho Duato introduces his award-winning "Multiplicity." "Forms of Silence and Emptiness," set to Johann Sebastian Bach's music, to Singapore audiences through Spain's Compañia Nacional de Danza. Leif Segerstam, who looks like an internationally beloved personality his native Finland is known for—Santa Claus—conducts the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra in a concert featuring, among others, his own Singapore-inspired composition, Symphony No. 63.

All in all, this year's Singapore arts festival offers a multi-faceted, comprehensive, interesting—and yes, exhausting—playbill designed to further strengthen the self-proclaimed City for the Arts' efforts to crown itself the art capital of Asia, if not the rest of the world.

CHOREOGRAPHY by Nacho Duato

STARK movements in Spain's contribution

CLAIRE Wong in Huzir Sulaiman's occupation

PETER Brooke

MICHAEL Nyman

INDIAN contemporary art

SINGAPORE'S Ecnad in action

TAN Dunn and orchestra

PHOTOGRAPH by Gilles Massot

Licad debuts with San Miguel Philharmonic tonight

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

CECILE Licad, who will perform with the San Miguel Philharmonic tonight under the baton of Rodel Colmenar, made a significant statement recently for an Internet-based newspaper in Singapore where she will perform after her Manila engagement.

She said the music world has changed a lot, and more and more Asians are dominating the music scene and proving just as good as their Western counterparts, if not better.

"The music of Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff used to be the specialty of Russian pianists, but now more pianists outside of Russia are proving to be the more discerning interpreters of those composers," Licad said.

Licad was asked how Asian musicians are faring vis-à-vis their Western counterparts and she asserted that the last two decades dominated by the likes of Yo Yo Ma, Sarah Chang, Sumi Jo, Fu Tsong and now, Langlang, are proof that Asians are doing better than ever.

Licad was herself the first Asian to win the Leventritt Gold Medal and she debuted with an Asian conductor, Seiji Ozawa, in her first performance with the Boston Symphony as soloist in Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2.

Tonight, Licad is soloist in Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 in D Minor, Op. 30, a concerto she played in Manila in 1999 with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra. She reprises the concerto with the newly born San Miguel Philharmonic, the first company-owned major orchestra in the country.

For sure, Licad will play it differently. She did Rach 2 in 1985 and reprised it in Manila in 2001 with even more passion and delicacy.

She once told a Seattle music critic: "I live in the moment; I take risks. In performances, I walk the tightrope. I want to communicate, not just play the notes. The real challenge of the artist is to create an atmosphere, to make a real story of the music and tell that story to the audience."

We will find out what story she will tell tonight through the much-feared Rachmaninoff opus of which the composer said, "I wrote it for elephants," referring to the strength and stamina needed to play it well.

ALEXANDER Tharaud: "Bizaare" performance of Ravel

Betrayal

The San Miguel Philharmonic finally made it to the CCP Main Theater last week as the closing attraction of the 2002 French Spring in Manila with a competition prizewinner, Alexander Tharaud, as soloist in Ravel's Concerto in G.

What I noted was that San Miguel has a distinct sound regardless of whoever was conducting it. Its previous performance under Julian Spirit showed it takes its music seriously and leaves nothing to chance.

In Dvorak's Symphony No. 9 in E Minor ("New World"), the orchestra under Colmenar was taut and cohesive; the wind and string section was formidable. While Quirit tended to reproduce the intensity of the music through his body movements, Colmenar was the cool type and he allowed the music to speak for itself.

His is a quiet authority, but his youthful looks are perhaps a drawback since music lovers tend to mistrust youthful conductors when it comes to their favorite warhorses. But then Colmenar finished Dvorak with nary a mishap and with all the basic nuances alive. Perhaps he needs to assert himself more, but I suppose this will happen when he outgrows his transition pains and evolve into a more self-assured conductor.

There was something bizarre in the performance of Ravel's Concerto in G with the youthful-looking Frenchman, Tharaud, as soloist.

He entered with a page-turner, performed the concerto by reading the score, and although the second movement had its soulful moments, he was obviously not prepared for the part.

The big consolation was that regardless of the state of competence of the soloist, the orchestra was in top shape as it ran through Ravel's intricate, if not jazzy, rhythm. The part for the harp was a standout; the percussion was always on cue and the wind section thoroughly honed.

But the sight of a Frenchman reading a Ravel concerto raised eyebrows, especially among the pianists in the audience, including National Artist for Music Jose Maceda, who studied under the legendary French pianist Alfred Cortot. The 14-year-old Licad played this concerto in 1975 with the PPO without a score. Leonor Kilayko also performed it with the MCO without a score.

"One cannot betray [John-Philipp] Rameau on the piano," the pianist was quoted to have said in the program, referring to his affinity with a contemporary French composer. But that lackluster performance with a score at the CCP showed he betrayed Ravel. Someone from the festival selection committee should explain why a Grand Prix honoree of a French music school was ready for Rameau but did not give Ravel the treatment the composer deserved.

Here and There

After tonight, Licad performs in a solo recital in Laoag (June 21 under the auspices of the Ilocos Norte government, tel. [077] 771-4343 c/o Miriam), CCP (June 24, presented by the Buencamino Foundation and CCP), Davao City (June 26 at the Marco Polo Hotel under the aus-

LICAD/ p.E5

LICAD performing Rachmaninoff 2 last year. Tonight she performs Rachmaninoff 3.

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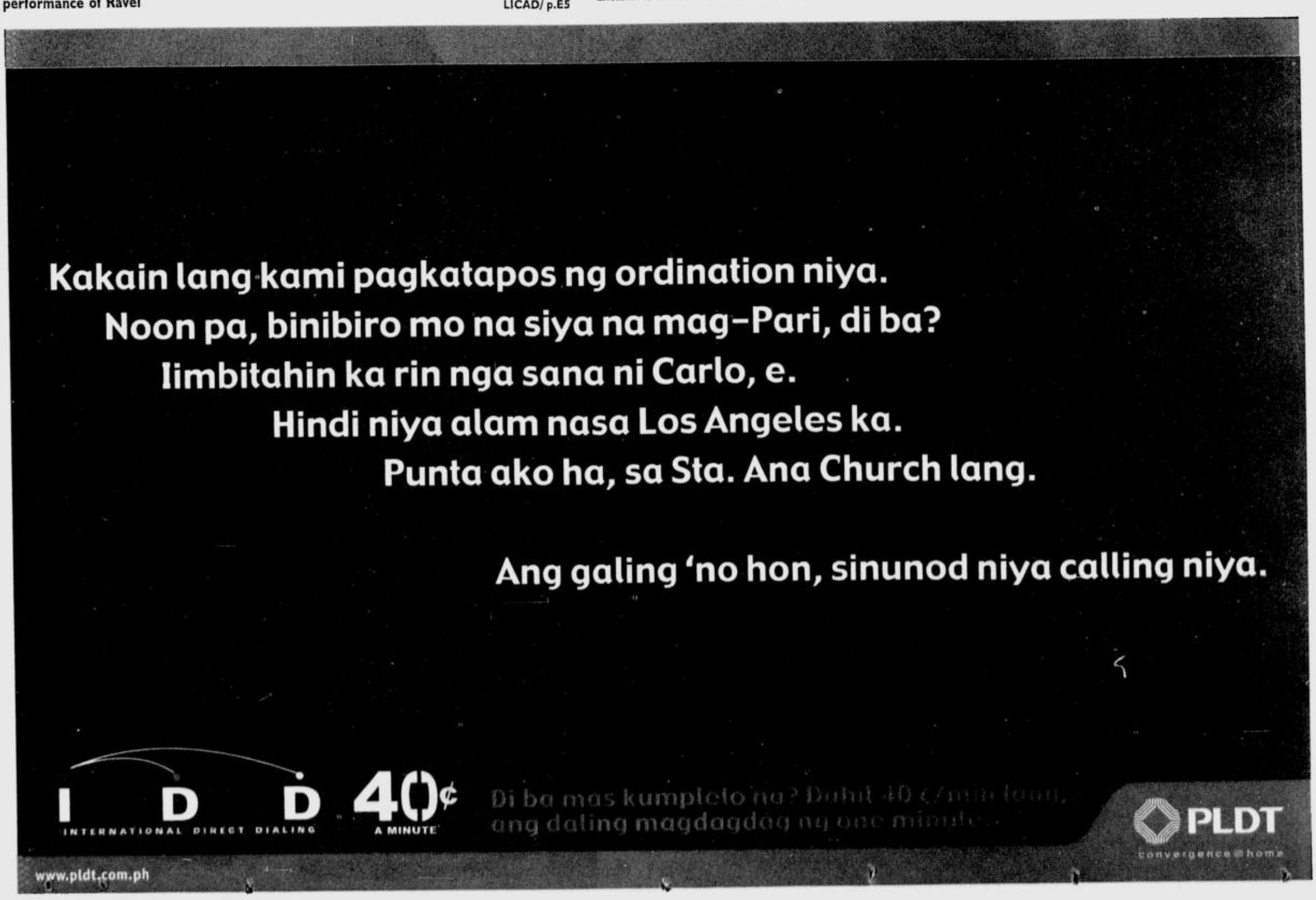


MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY

CHICHOY CHOKOY

BY IKOY RICIO

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

KIKO MACHINE

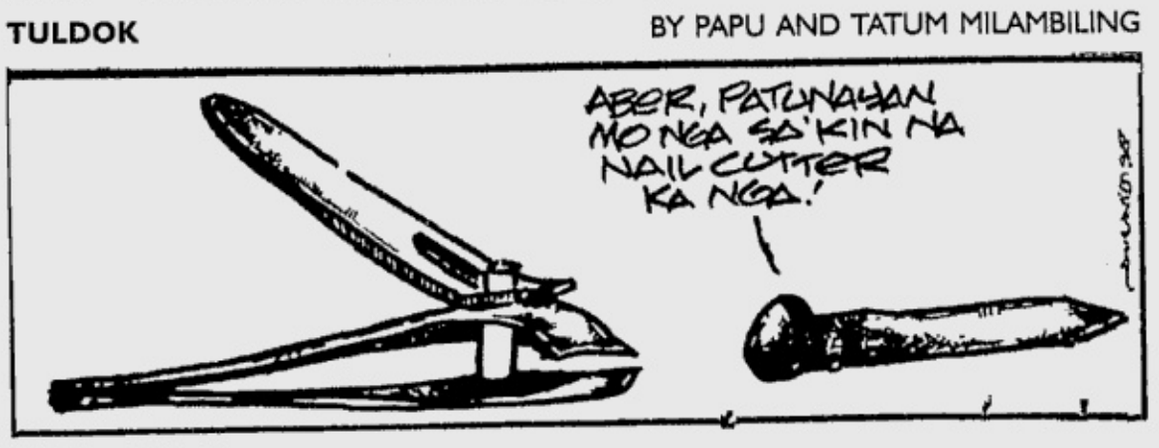
BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joe Piscopo, Barry Manilow, Venus Williams, Igor Stravinsky

Happy Birthday: Your outlook will be positive and your ideas plentiful this year. You will have an intellectual approach and will do whatever is necessary to pick up added knowledge. Greater interaction with siblings, relatives, neighbors and friends can be expected. Your numbers are 1, 5, 18, 26, 31, 39

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your ability to drum up enthusiasm in others will help you complete what you start. The pace will be hectic but it is the perfect day to take control.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make this a day of new beginnings. Start a new health regimen. You can make personal changes that will enhance your appearance and bring about greater social activities.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone you are close to will probably be difficult to deal with at an emotional level. Don't make promises that you may not be able to keep. You must take care of your family.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you push yourself out the door and get together with friends you will find that you actually enjoy yourself. There will be opportunities to learn interesting information.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can get ahead but first you must get your priorities straight. You may feel like goofing off but put your energy into work and moneymaking opportunities.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): This may be a difficult day to control your emotions if you let yourself get trapped in a mind game with someone who is unstable. Get all the facts before taking action or getting involved.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let anyone lead you on today. Someone may try to make you feel as if you don't have the qualifications to do what you are doing. Trust in yourself and your own judgment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Money matters may be a little uncertain today. Don't overreact to situations that aren't clear. Take a good look at your financial position and don't get involved in joint ventures.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone may be eager to steal your ideas. This is not the time to share your thoughts with those you work or play with. Don't let your personal problems interfere with your productivity.

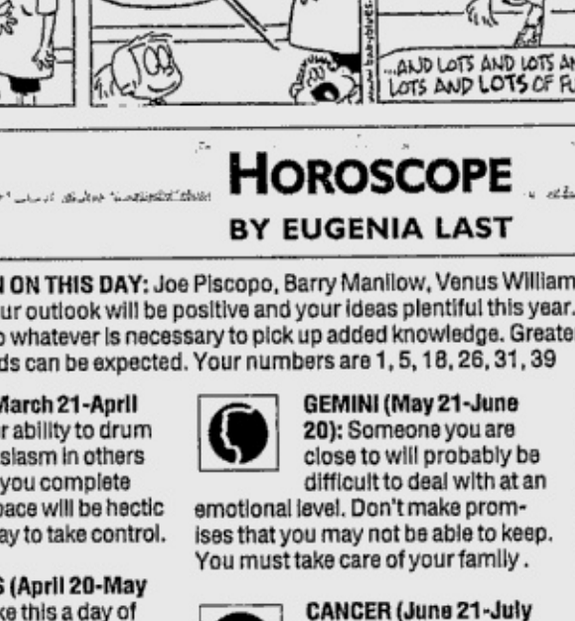
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look for some form of intelligent entertainment. Get out with people you can relate to. Don't be too shy; speak up and let others know what you're thinking.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can make a difference if you pitch in and help those less fortunate but don't get taken for granted. Gambling or financial risks will lead to problems.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may want to focus on love and romance today. If you are in a relationship already, put on the moves and rekindle the flame. If you are single, get out and mingle.

Birthday Baby: You will be reserved in your approach to life. You will be calm and disciplined and mature in your interactions with others. You will stick to routines and schedules in order to feel secure and in control.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX
6/17/02

ACROSS
1 Cream of the crop
6 Lee J. or Ty
10 Bahrain leader
14 Airhead
15 Always
16 Lighten
17 Unsuitable
18 Artist Salvador
19 Colorado tributary
20 Music district
23 Rorem or Beatty
24 Truth twister
25 Dines sumptuously
27 Thaw twice
30 Volcanic rock
32 Mimicked
33 Lose heat
35 Show once more
38 Actor Curry
39 Theatrical producer
41 WWII zone
42 Derision
44 Verve
45 Bog collection
46 Man with shingles?
48 Cut canines
50 Aromatic fungicide
52 Track event
53 Holbrook or Roach
54 Erskine Caldwell book
60 Vivacity
62 Mil. course
63 Sao __, Brazil
64 Nevada city
65 Architect Saarinen
66 Bird with fine plumage
67 Watched
68 Waiter's aid
69 Watch again

DOWN
1 Radiate
2 Anderson of "WKRP..."
3 Afghanistan's neighbor
4 Knocked over
5 Bring into play
6 Aromatic tree
7 Nearly round
8 Hemingway novel, "For Whom the __ Tolls"
9 Legal outlines
10 Neurological test letters
11 Sinclair Lewis book
12 Alt
13 Is a bookworm
21 Of course, stangily
22 Pine
26 Pub brew
27 Phooey!
28 Long poem
29 Nostalgic way
30 Arbor
31 Charity
34 Seep
36 The Beehive State
37 Observe
39 Proboscis
40 Room at the top
43 CD-__
45 Nobility
47 Broccoli top
49 Impetuous bride
50 At that location
51 Bill __ and the Comets
53 The real
55 Afrikaner
56 Gillette razor
57 Yours and mine
58 Opposite of aweather
59 Overdo the TLC
61 Wordless affirmative

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

C	E	R	A	M	I	S	T		A	S	S	I	S	T
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UST writing center, Mabuhay Singers pay tribute to Levi Celerio

TO USHER in the new academic year, the University of Santo Tomas Center for Creative Writing and Studies (UST-CCWS) will pay a literary-musical tribute to the late National Artist for Music and Literature Levi Celerio.

The tribute on June 26, 3 p.m., at the audiovisual room of the Faculty of Arts and Letters at the St. Raymund's Building, will consist of a lecture by award-winning poet-critic Michael M. Coroza and performances by the celebrated Mabuhay Singers.

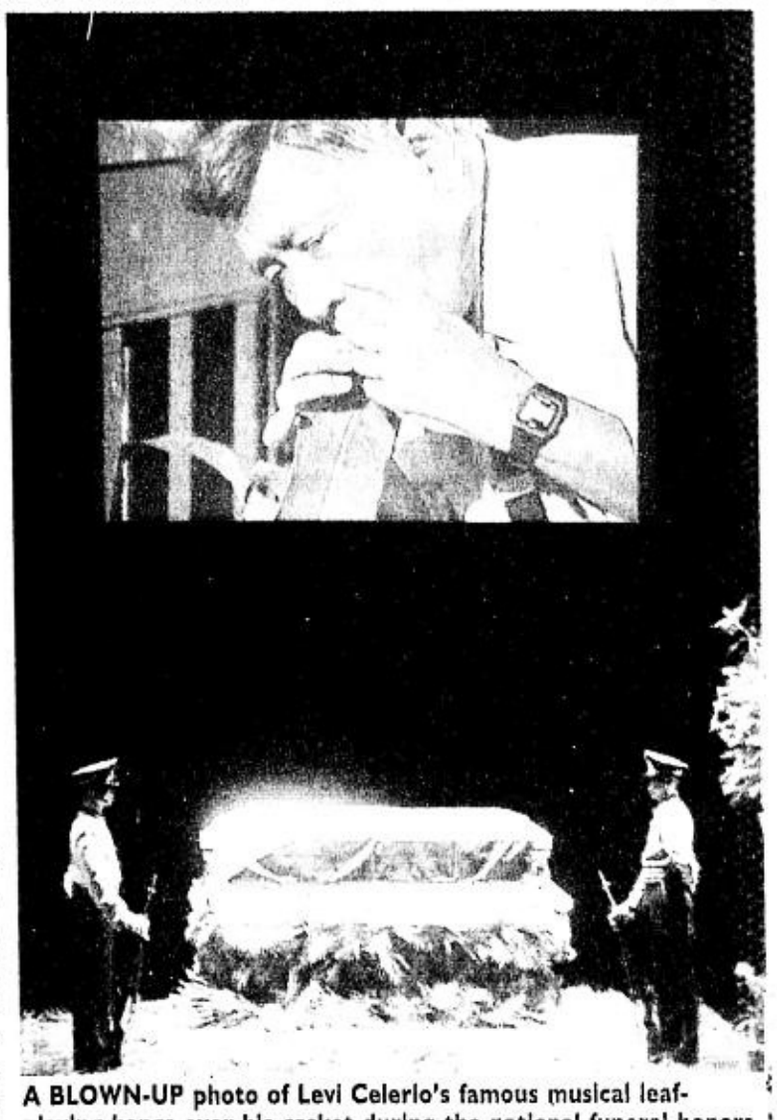
Coroza's lecture, "Ang Awit Bilang Tula: Ang Mga Katangian ng Tradisyong Pabigkas ng mga Titik ng Awit ni Levi Celerio," will tackle the oral literary tradition that is the heart and soul of Celerio's prolific and sonorous lyric-writing.

Coroza, who has compiled many of Celerio's lyrics and researched and written on Tagalog musical forms such as the *kundiman*, is a teacher of creative writing at the Ateneo de Manila University, lecturer on Philippine literature at the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters, and junior associate of the UST-CCWS. He won the Palanca grand prize last year for poetry in Filipino.

During the lecture, the Mabuhay Singers will demonstrate and sing some of Celerio's most memorable and moving songs. Founded by Villar Records in 1958, the Mabuhay Singers became famous here and abroad for their bravura performance and recordings of the best of Filipino folk songs. From the group emerged some of the most famous names in Filipino folk singing such as Ruben Tagalog, Ric Manrique Jr., Don David, Aclor Torres, Cely Bautista, Rita Rivera, Raye Lucero, Carmen Camacho, Nora Hermosa and many others. Today the group is composed of Bautista, Rivera, Lucero, Naning Alba, Eddie Suarez and Juan Navarro. Together with radio queen Dely Magpayo, the group can be heard every Saturday at 11 p.m. over dzRH.

The tribute is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. Call the UST-CCWS at 731-3101 local 8281.

MABUHAY SINGERS: Fresh and youthful singing as ever



A BLOWN-UP photo of Levi Celerio's famous musical leaf-playing hangs over his casket during the national funeral honors last April.

BALANCHINE IN MANILA

There is no need to fly abroad to see the great dance pieces of George Balanchine. The Philippine Ballet Theater will stage "Balanchine!" on June 20-23 at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater) of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and on July 5 at Assumption-Antipolo. Group reservations and discounts for students, elderly and cultural workers can be arranged. Call 727-5651; 832-3704 or (0919) 454-5441.

Church music goes a cappella

THE FIRST all-a cappella recording of Philippine liturgical music will be launched on June 23 at the Loyola House of Studies chapel inside the Ateneo campus in Loyola Heights, QC.

The CD, titled "Hangad Acapella!," features the music of Hangad, a singing group composed of young women and men who specialize in church songs. It is the group's second album.

A thanksgiving Mass will be held at 3 p.m., followed by a free concert.

This album, Hangad's second, contains new vocal arrangements by Paulo Tirol and JC Uy, both members of Hangad, and Vince de Jesus.

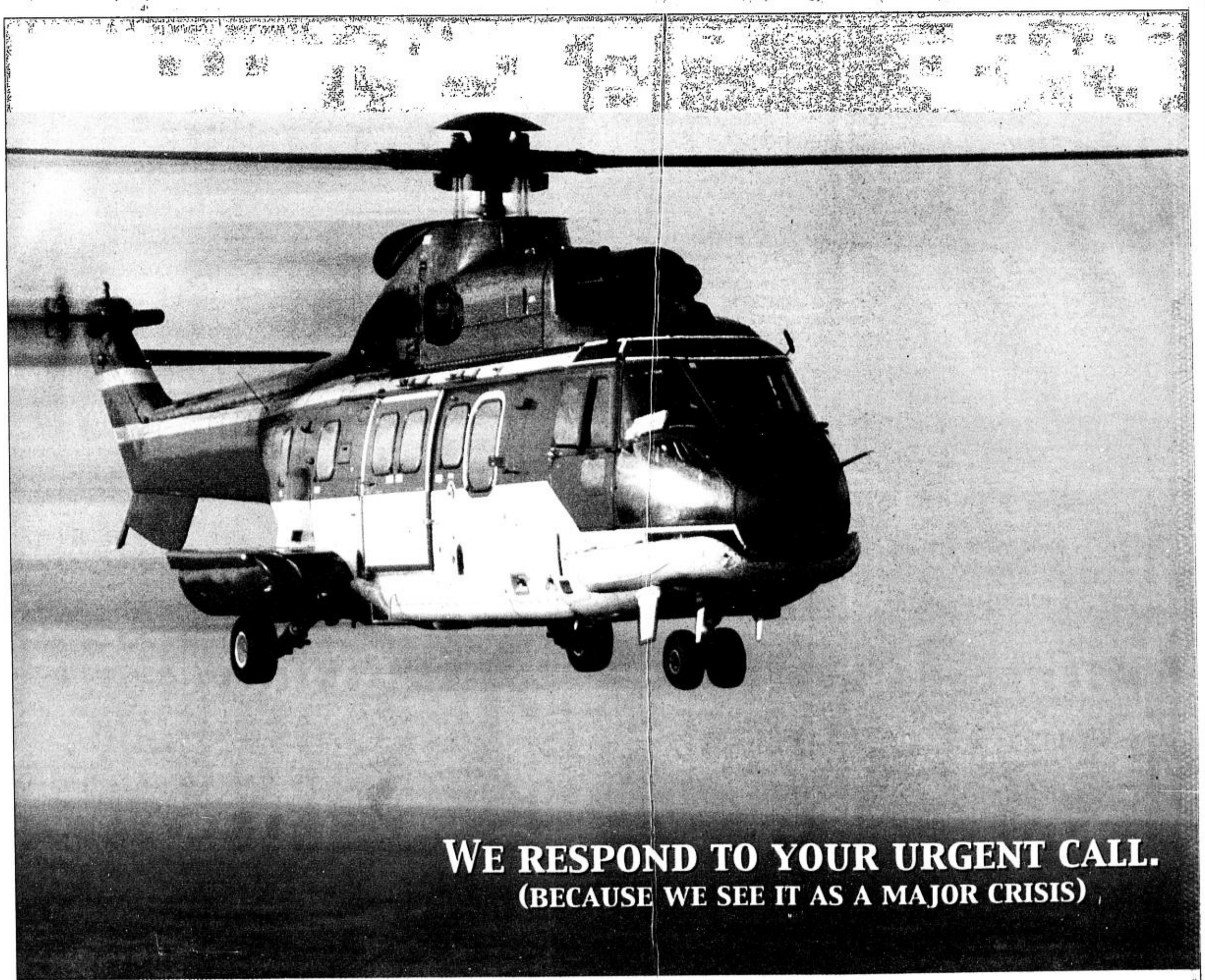
The CD is a joint production of Hangad and the Jesuit Music Ministry of the Jesuit Communications Foundation. Call 426-6101 local 3425, or e-mail mail@hangad.com.

Licad . . .

From page E3

pices of Southern Philippines Foundation for the Arts, Culture and Ecology and Bahaghari Productions, tel. [082] 235-2133) and Antipolo City (June 30 presented by the Institute for Neuro Sciences of St. Luke's Medical Center, tel. 697-1015).

The program is Schubert's Impromptus Op. 90 and Op. 142, Liszt's Anees de Pelerinage (Years of Pilgrimage), Liszt-Busoni's Mephisto Waltz and Chopin's Twelve Etudes, Op. 25. This program was performed in Keaning University in New Jersey last month and the head of the music school called it the most unforgettable performance in many years.



STEPHEN SONDHEIM

50-plus years of music and magic

By Gibbs Cadiz
Contributor

The composer-lyricist of 'Send in the Clowns' and many other immortal Broadway tunes is getting feted in Washington. About time, too

THE MAN Leonard Bernstein once called "the most important force in American musical theater" is finally getting the big, brash official celebration that his genius deserves.

For the next three months, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington is mounting a retrospective of six celebrated musicals by Stephen Sondheim: "Sweeney Todd," "Company," "Sunday in the Park with George," "Merrily We Roll Along," "Passion," and "A Little Night Music."

These revivals are by no means a complete accounting of the composer's extraordinarily prolific output over the last five decades, but they represent a good sampling of his diverse, unpredictable and fiercely original musical talents.

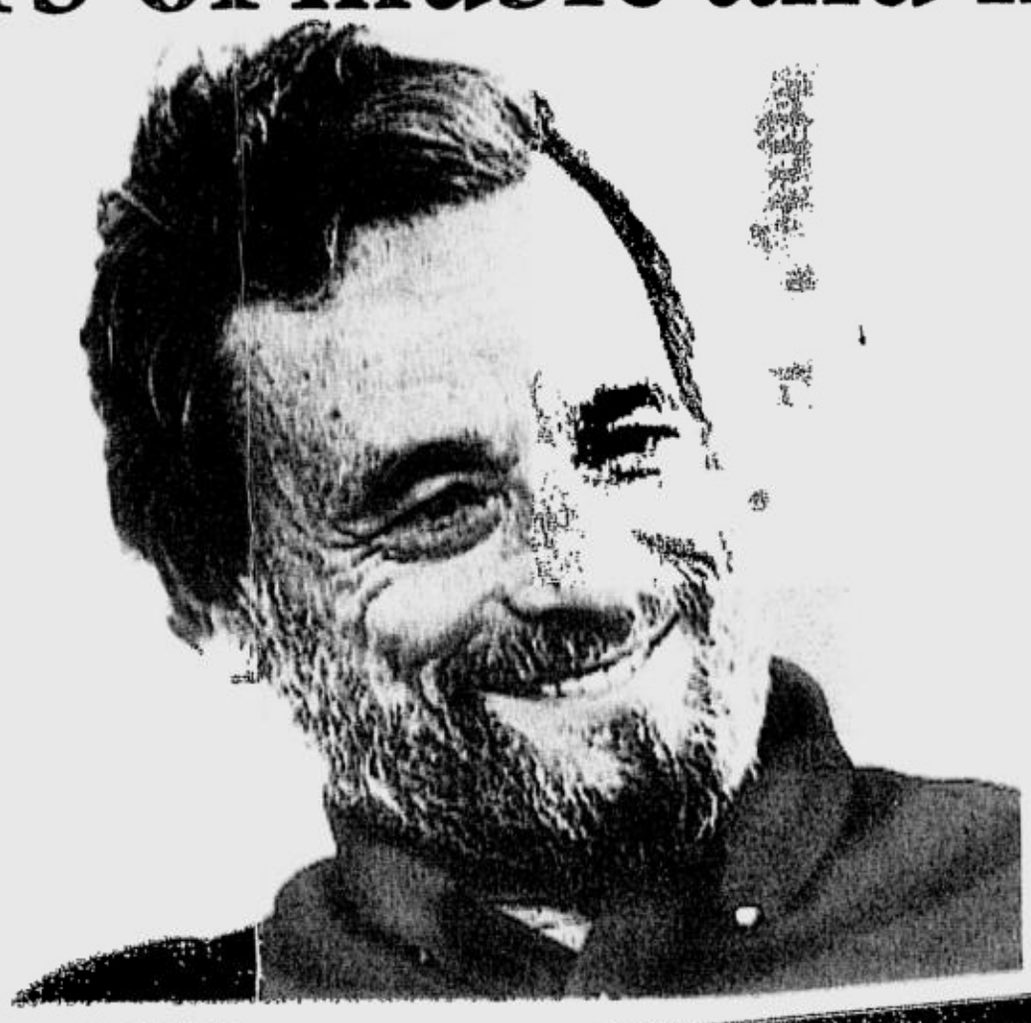
Make that musical and literary talents, for beginning with the bawdy Roman farce "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" in 1962, Sondheim has written both the music and lyrics to his plays. These days, he is distinguished not only for his harmonically intricate musical scores, but for lyrics that, in the words of the New York Times, have transformed "the once humble musical comedy form ...into something intellectually challenging and morally weighty."

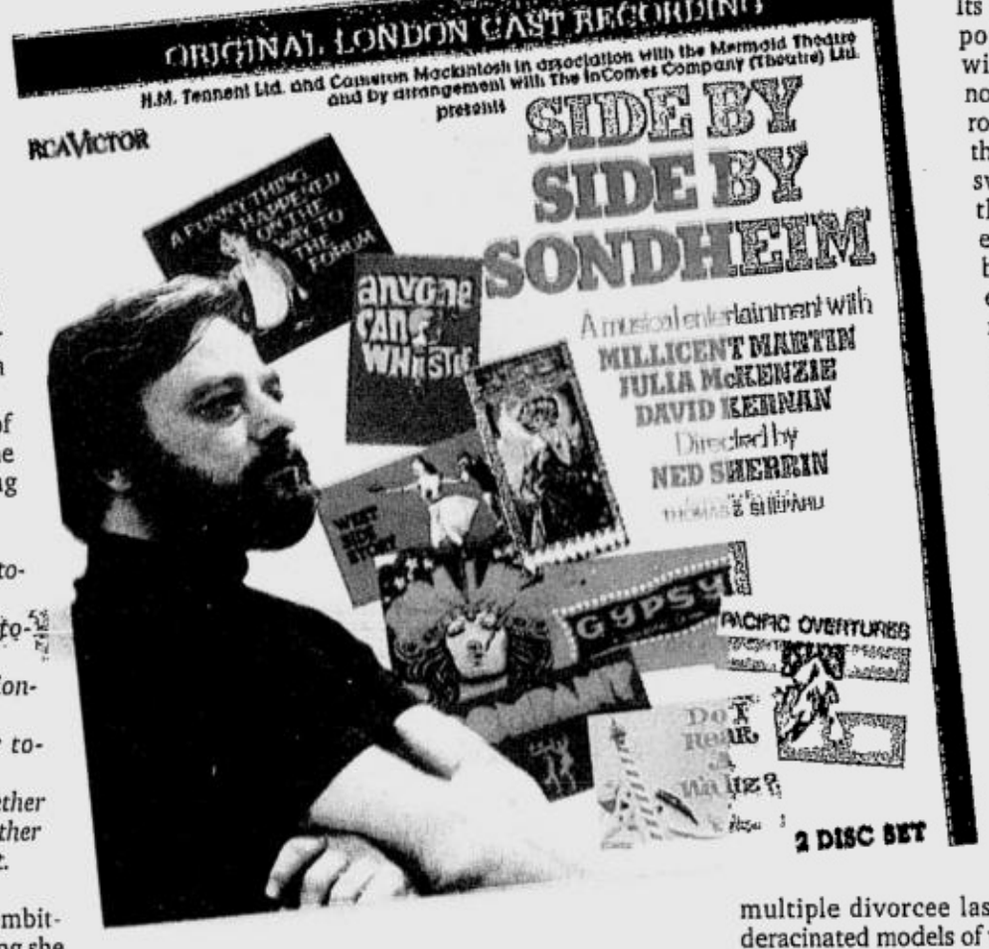
There have been other Sondheim celebrations, of course, most notably the string of musical revues built around his ever-growing catalogue of songs.

Before Cameron Mackintosh hit it big with "Cats," his first Broadway triumph was a small, intimate show in 1976 called "Sideby Side by Sondheim," featuring English performers Julia McKenzie, Millicent Martin and David Kernan. It was a compilation of Sondheim tunes from musicals he had written up to that point, staged as a cabaret concert.

The concept proved dazzlingly appropriate for the warm, intensely personal play of words and music that Sondheim unfailingly brought to his compositions.

Night after night in both New York and London, the sight of Julia Mckenzie tearing into "Broadway Baby," Sondheim's anthem of survival and determination in the cruel theater mill *(I'm just a Broadway Baby/walking off my tired feet/pounding Forty-Second Street/ to be in a show...)*, was met with rapturous applause.





Adventurous

Taken together, the songs—by turns sardonic, exultant, wistful, hilarious, sad—proved one thing: Here was a composer-lyricist of extreme adventurousness and iconoclasm, unafraid, within the dramatic framework of his multilayered works, to face life's darker corners with a wink and a shrug.

Commenting on the joys of married life in "Company," he writes—to a buoyant, lilting beat:

It's the little things you do together
Swear together, wear together
That makes perfect relationships.
The concerts you enjoy together
Neighbors you annoy together
Children you destroy together
That keep marriage intact.

Or, giving voice to an embittered wife's terror at realizing she still loves the husband she's about to divorce in "Merrily We Roll Along":

Not a day goes by
Not a blessed day
But you're still somehow part of my life
And you won't go away
And there's hell to pay
And until I die, I'll die day after day...

In 1993, a bigger revue called "Putting It Together" was staged on Broadway, headlined by Julie Andrews. It had new songs from new Sondheim musicals, and by this time, having amassed a slew of Tonys and other theater awards (even the Pulitzer prize for "Sunday in the Park with George"), Sondheim was fully secure in his position as the greatest figure in American musical theater in the post-Rodgers and Hammerstein years.

Yet for all the critical acclaim, Sondheim does have a weak spot: He has never had a hit musical. His shows have never generated the sort of massive advance bookings that "Phantom of the Opera" or "Les Miserables" did. None of his works can be remotely classified as a mega-musical, with the sort of signature crossover hit song like Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Memory" that can do wonders both for the box-office and a place in global pop-music memory.

That is why a splashy coronation in the political heartland of America, as the Kennedy Center honors presumably is, would be the next best thing to awarding Sondheim the Legion of Honor—or getting knighted by the Queen of England (his shows have graced the West End)—for his enormous contributions to the modern American musical.

Elitism

Sondheim's veneration by a relatively smaller class of people, mostly hardcore Broadway buffs, and his reputation for coming up with musical works that are not only witty and sophisticated, but also—and more often—dark, dissonant, and staunchly unconventional, have led to charges of elitism.

Time has despaired more than once over his "astringent" music, lamenting the days when Broadway musical comedy meant the broad amalgam of throwaway lines, soaring choruses, and frenetic dances that defined the likes of "Guys & Dolls" and, more recently, "The Producers."

In contrast, Sondheim's idea of a musical comedy is "Company," a show that many deemed "too New York even for New York" when it debuted in 1970. It transgressed a long list of sacred musical theater conventions: no plotline, no signature song, no happy ending, no synchronized choreography.

"Company" presented a commitment-phobic bachelor celebrating his 35th birthday in the company of his (mostly married) friends. Through a series of vignettes detailing his friends' various marital messes and complications, the institution of marriage itself is given a thorough examination.

The show was apparently ahead of its time. Its melodies were more pop than Broadway, with dashes of bossa nova and a slightly parodic air that mirrored the lyrics' often bittersweet, ironic take on their subject. At the end of the show, the bachelor acknowledges the need for human connection in some way, but sees as well its burdens:

Somebody crowd me with love
Somebody force me to care
Somebody let me come through
I'll always be there
As frightened as you
Of being alive...

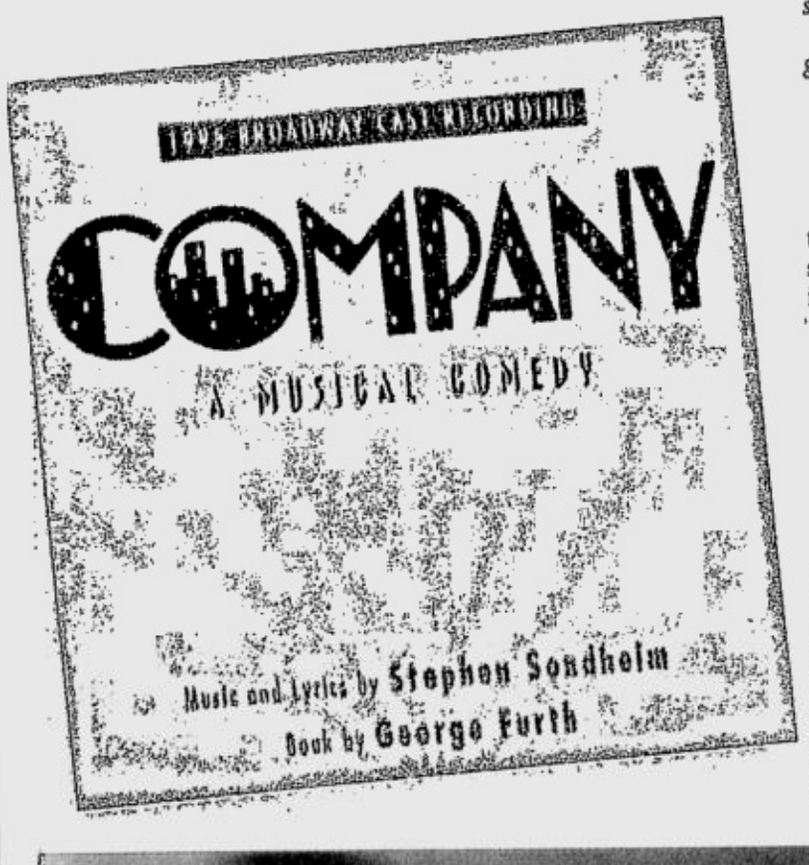
And in perhaps the most iconic part of the show, a tart-tongued multiple divorcee lashes out at the tired, deracinated models of womanly behavior imposed by society.

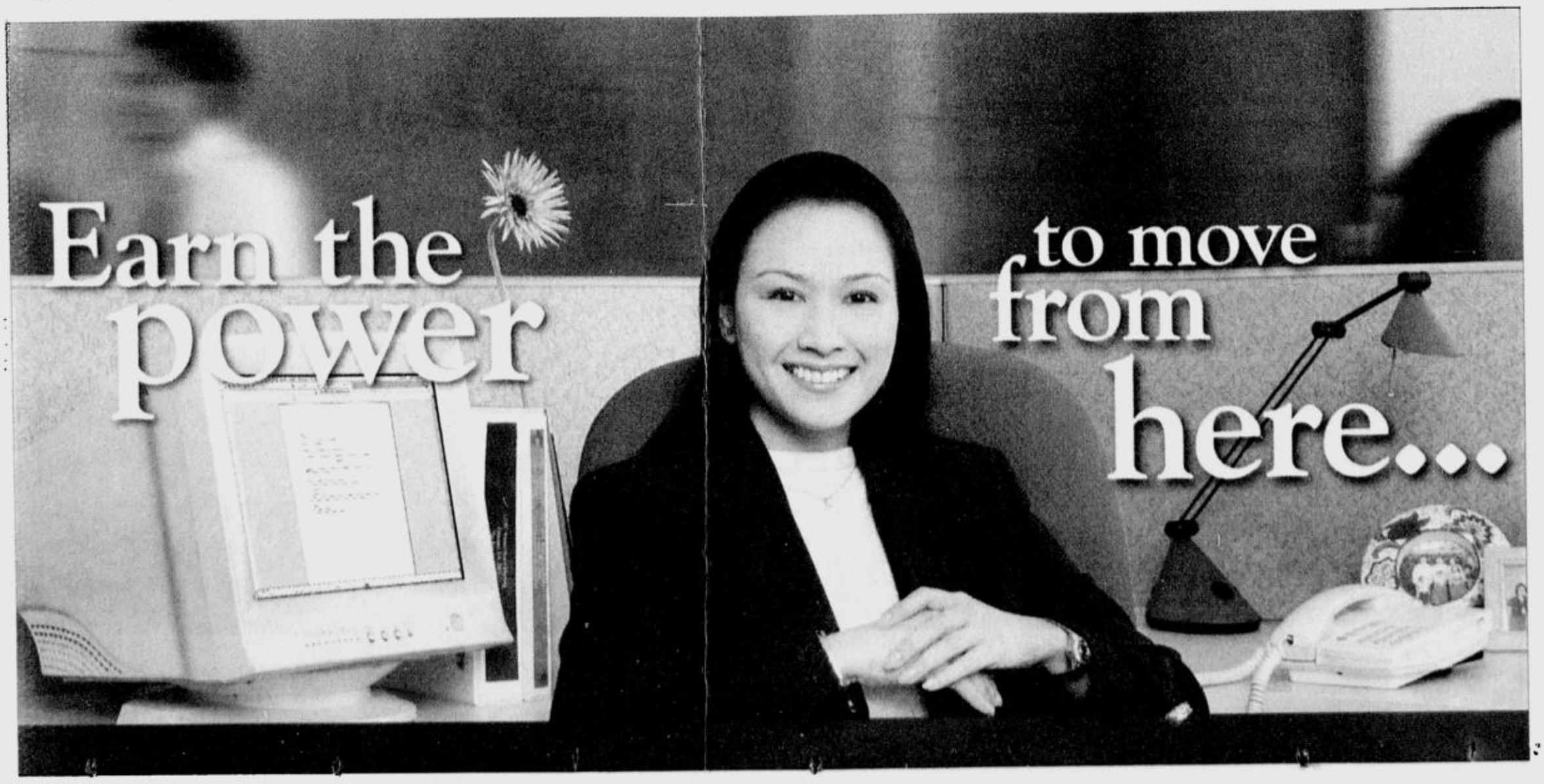
Elaine Stritch achieved legendary status on Broadway spitting out the harsh, spiteful lyrics of "The Ladies Who Lunch":

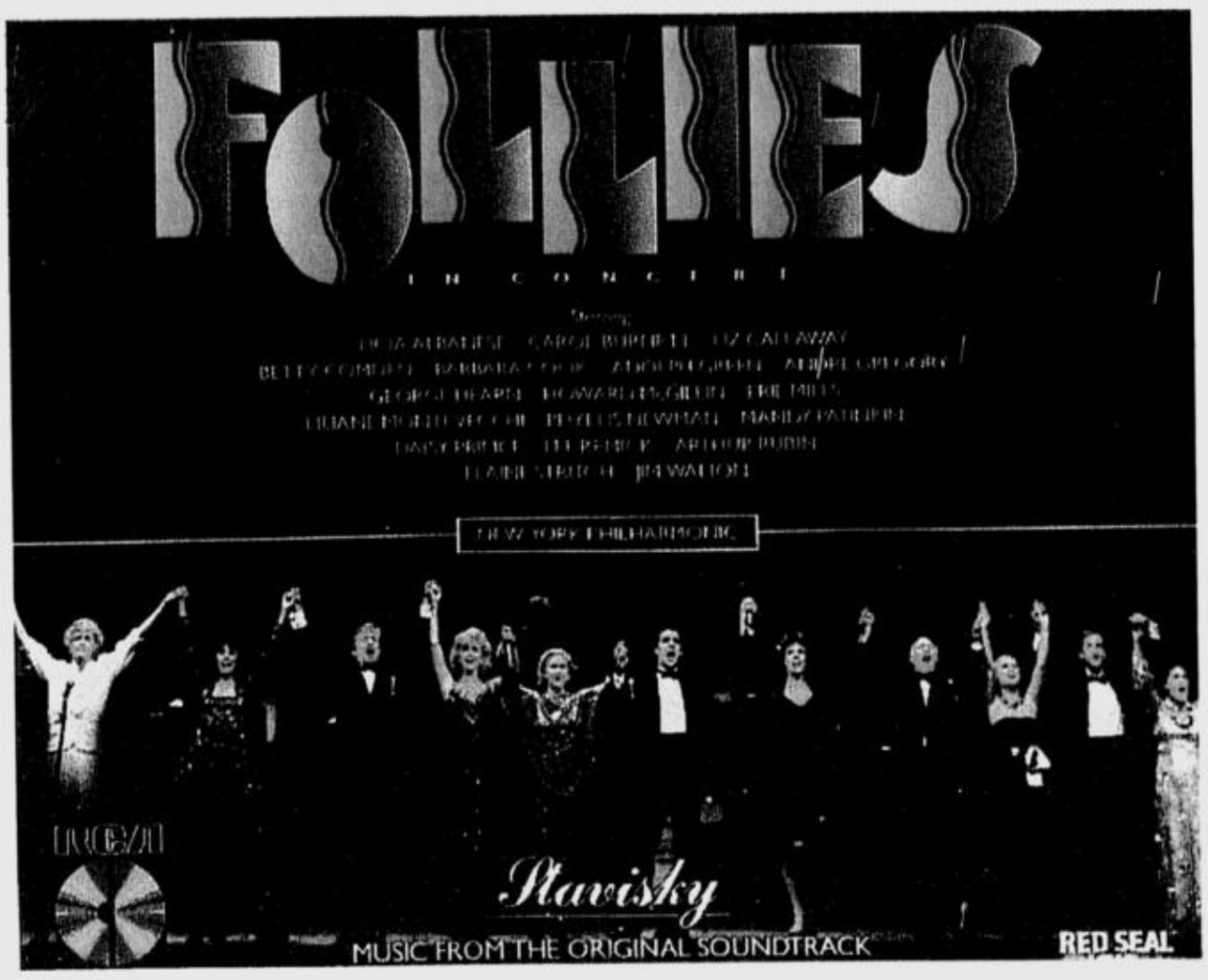
Here's to the girls who stay smart
Aren't they a gas?
Rushing to their classes in optical art
Wishing it would pass.
Another long exhausting day
Another thousand dollars
A matinee, a Pinter play
Perhaps a piece of Mahler's —
I'll drink to that.
And one for Mahler!

"Company," the first "concept" musical, was a flop, but is now regarded as one of the

50-PLUS/ p.E7







50-plus years of music and magic

From page E6

landmarks of the art form, along with "Show Boat," "Oklahoma!," "My Fair Lady" and "A Chorus Line" (the last having refined the "concept" musical to its zenith in 1976).

To brittle marriages and multiple partners, Sondheim has added a ghoulish gallery of misfits to his other musical subjects: a London barber who murders his clients and bakes them into meat pies ("Sweeney Todd"); an ugly dying woman who becomes obsessed with a visiting soldier ("Passion"); a troupe of aging showgirls visiting the ruins of the theater that once showcased their stage triumphs ("Follies"); a witch casting spells on Cinderella and other beloved fairy-tale characters ("Into the Woods"); even John Wilkes Booth and Lee Harvey Oswald singing a duet ("Assassins").

A pity

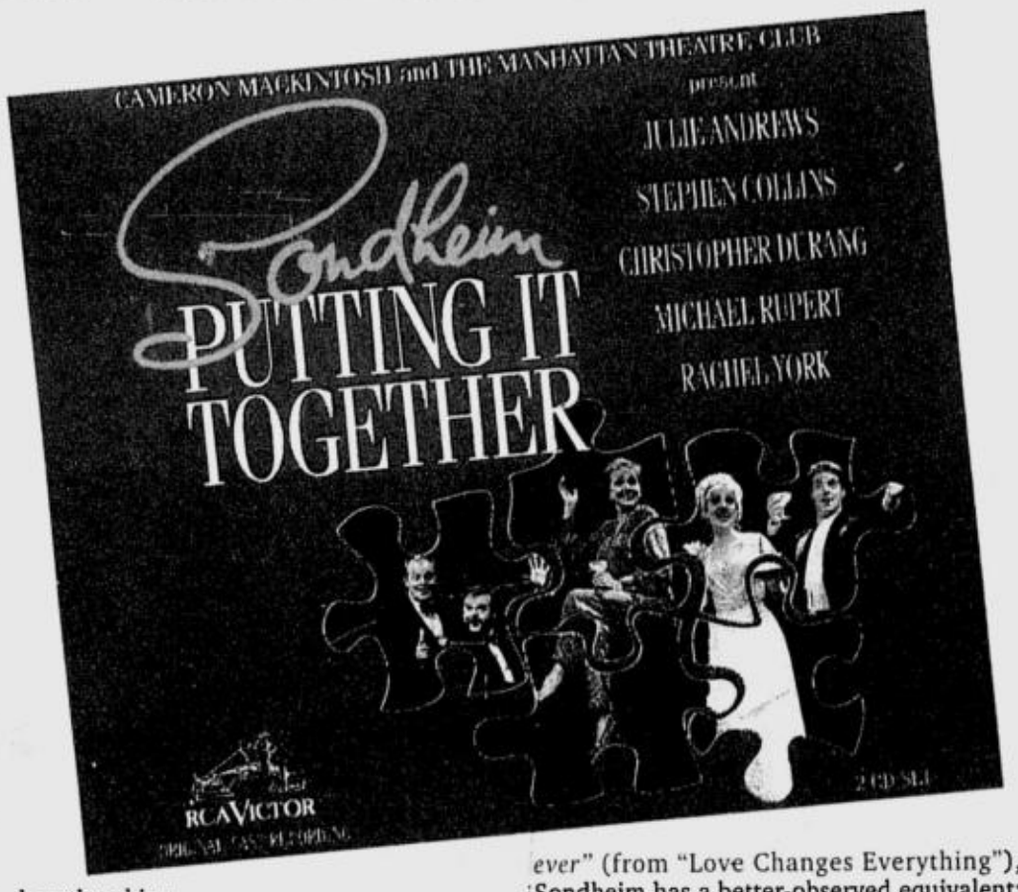
Such unorthodox choices have, not surprisingly, limited the number of people willing to listen to Sondheim's music. Which is a pity, because while he may have a fascination for gothic subjects, he is also responsible for some of the loveliest, most exquisite melodies ever written for the theater.

And because he has never settled for cheap lines, for easy, generic sentiments, his songs acquire a richer, deeper meaning on various levels in the hands of gifted interpreters.

In the hands of the sweet-voiced Michael Ball, for instance, a song like "Losing My Mind" (from "Follies") becomes a melting ballad of yearning and uncertainty:

I dim the lights and think about you
Spend sleepless nights to think about you
You said you loved me
Or were you just being kind?
Or am I losing my mind?

In its original form, however, the song expressed the loneliness of a suburban housewife often left on her own. So when a Broadway veteran like Barbara Cook sings it (in a stupendous concert version of "Follies" in 1985) and, reaching the final line, pours all her anguish into one long, lonely note—"*Or am I looooooo-sing my mind?*"—the effect is



heartbreaking.

In fact, nothing sets off Sondheim more clearly from Lloyd Webber, the other important force in musical theater, than in the way they meld words and music together. Ever since his parting with Tim Rice, who wrote the lyrics to "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Evita, Lloyd Webber has had to plod along with a revolving coterie of writers (from Don Black and Charles Hart for "Aspects of Love" to the playwright Christopher Hampton for "Sunset Boulevard").

For this obvious weakness Lloyd Webber compensates with his lushly extravagant musical scores, catchy melodies, and larger-than-life characters — the ingredients that have made him the most commercially successful theater composer of all time.

If Lloyd Webber is the ultimate entertainer, Sondheim is the avuncular teacher dispensing wise *bon mots*. One's a showman, the other's a philosopher. To a bland, platitudinous Lloyd Webber-Black-Hart line like "*Love can turn your world around/And that world will last forever*" (from "Love Changes Everything"), Sondheim has a better-observed equivalent: "*Everything's different/Nothing's changed/Only slightly maybe rearranged./You're sorry-grateful/Regretful-happy...*" (from "Sorry-Grateful").

Even his most famous song is an exotic wisp of music and words. "Send In The Clowns" (from "A Little Night Music"), while an acknowledged standard, is hardly your typical love song. It is suffused with a haunting sense of tension, wound taut by a melody that ebbs and flows while transporting the allusive lyrics right up to their last dramatic arch: "*Isn't it rich/Isn't it queer/Losing my timing this late in my career...*"

That penchant for sympathetic irony, that willingness to affirm the absurdity and contradictions of real life while working in a medium that emphasizes relentless entertainment and plummy optimism, are what make Sondheim unique in all musical theater. His intelligence and acute affection for the foibles of people combine to produce a humanistic, compassionate view of the human condition. Add to that his astounding verbal dexterity, a radiant articulateness, and Broadway's immeasurably the better to have a gifted gadfly bringing it to places it has never been.

Moral weight

His lofty perch has thus given Sondheim the moral weight to use the modern musical to engage and challenge his audiences on a broad front—admonish them about parental responsibilites ("*Careful the things you say/Children will listen/Careful the things you do/Children will see—and learn*"); soothe and pacify ("*No one's gonna harm you/No one's gonna dare/Others can desert you/Not to worry/Whistle, I'll be there*"); encourage tolerance ("*Witches can be right/Giants can be good/You decide what's right...*"); despair over urban blight ("*It's a city of strangers/Some come to work, some to play/... Some come to stare/Some to stay/And every day, the ones who stay/Can find each other in the crowded streets in the guarded parks...*"); honor unconditional love ("*Loving you is not a choice/And not much reason to rejoice/But it gives me purpose/Gives me voice*"); extol daring and creativity ("*Art isn't easy/Every minor detail is a major decision/Have to keep things in scale/Have to hold to your vision*").

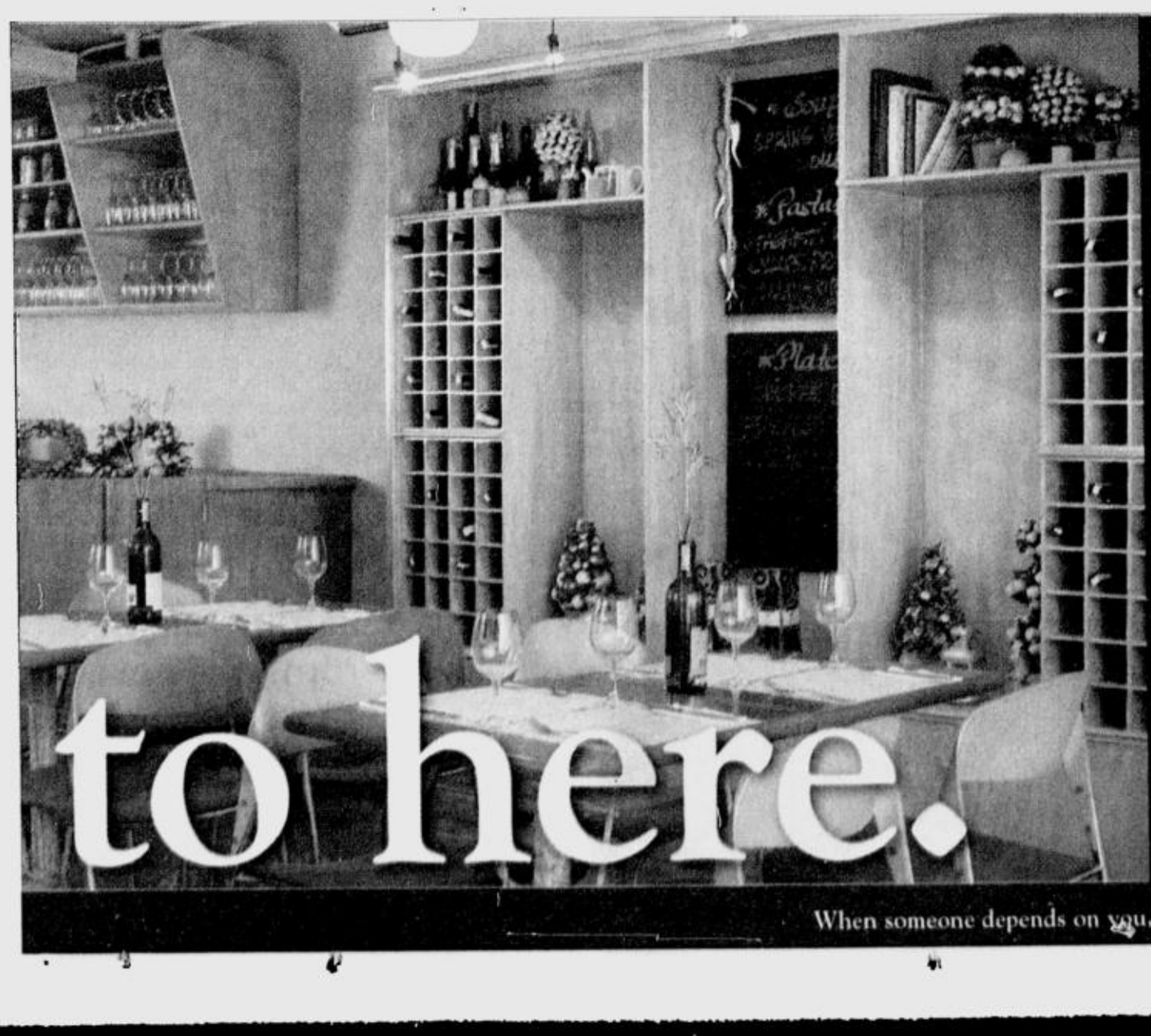
And, most poignantly, celebrate friendship:

Most friends fade,
Or they don't make the grade
New ones are quickly made
And in a pinch—sure, they'll do
But us, old friends
What's to discuss, old friends?
Here's to us!
Who's like us?
Damn few.

None of these songs has made it to your daily FM radio (Lloyd Webber's most recent is "No Matter What" by Boyzone, from "Whistle Down the Wind," a play that didn't make it to Broadway), but Sondheim himself doesn't mind.

"I like writing songs that take place in dramatic situations within the proscenium arch," he once said. "I'm not particularly interested in art songs or pop songs that stand on their own."

Well, aren't we grateful for it, Steve? Aren't we grateful?



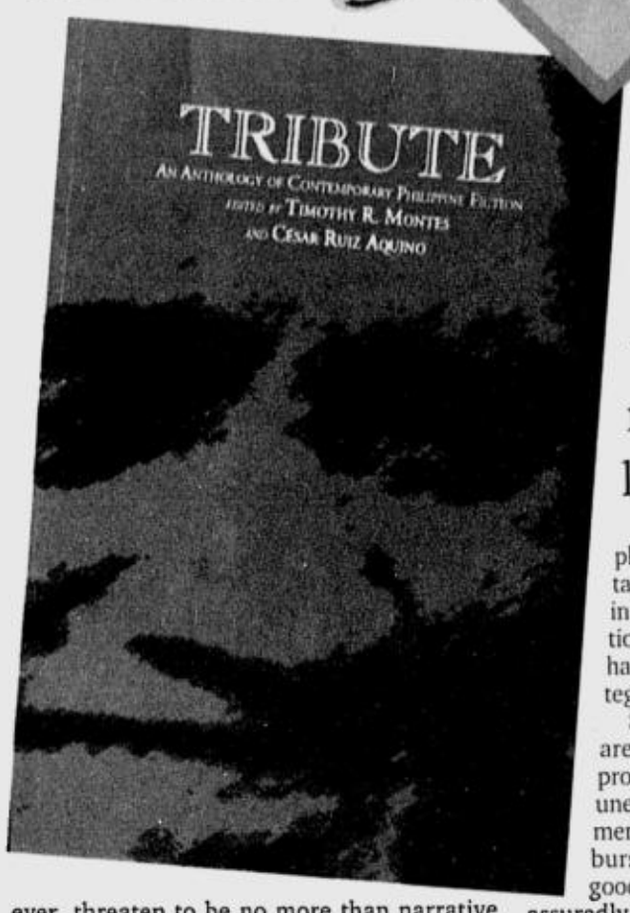
A fine tribute to a writer's writer

Books

REVIEW

"Tribute, An Anthology of Contemporary Philippine Fiction"
Edited by Timothy Montes and Cesar Aquino)
Anvil Publishing House, 2001, 350 pp.

By Ophelia A. Dimalanta
Contributor



A memorial anthology pays tribute to Edilberto Tiempo, whose disciples now adorn the literary firmament

"TRIBUTE" pays tribute to Edilberto Tiempo, Dad, Doc Ed, dear Ed, and however else countless of his disciples endearingly call him. The contributors are mostly Tiempo babes who have, at this point, gone a long way since their workshop days, their products honed pretty much after Ed's heart and art.

This anthology, which is a significant attempt to put together some of the finest works of Philippine fictionists, includes 23 writers and their representative works. The works are written along the methodological formalistic standards of the New Criticism School, formalism in a more or less general sense. Still traditionally realistic in the handling and presentation of subject, not quite postmodern yet, although metafictive shades are evident in a few stories.

Tiempo favorites

The book is edited by Timothy Montes (Ed's favorite babe who has continued to pursue the exacting and excellent tradition of storytelling and is now passing it on to his students at UP Mindanao), and Cesar Aquino, whose almost uncanny feel and handling of language has produced exciting pieces, from his luminous poetry to his sonorous writerly prose.

As Montes says in his preface: "The writers have come together to celebrate the writing life in honor of one who lived it." And may I add, one who continues to live it in the products of his products, his disciples who continue to look up to him as mentor and inspiration, as both spur and curb.

The impressive roster of names that composes this volume mostly emerging from Dumaguete workshops reads like a who's who in Philippine Literature. The so-called enfants terribles of the '60s like Erwin Castillo, Cesar Aquino, Krip Yuson; the Tiempo babes of the '70s and '80s, Anthony Tan, Carlos Aureus, Jaime An Lim, and later, Butch Dalisay, Susan Lara, Timothy Montes, Connie Maraan, Gina Apostol, Danton Remoto, Charlson Ong, literary expat Eileen Tabios, Bobby Villasis, pianist-writer-lawyer Ernesto Yee, Carlos Cortes, Maria Victoria Kapauan, and capping more significantly an albeit already worthy confluence, "sweet and rich fruit of the vine" Rowena Torrevillas, and seasoned veterans of the craft Kerima Tuvera, Aida Rivera Ford, and the great lady herself, Edith Tiempo. The book then is not so much an intimate literary get-together as a fairly representative community gathering of the most respected names in fiction.

Ed will certainly be pleased with this rich harvest from the seeds he planted. Discipline, more than anything else. A sense of formal aesthetic order. This attention to form resulting in literary text which could stand rigorous and analytical reading. Some fictional pieces, however, threaten to be no more than narrative accounts, seemingly mere excised portions of larger oeuvres, a kind of tenuousness teetering on the brink of becoming mere personal memoirs about and on the master. Still and all, never mere affected, pretentious writing here, bane of Ed's aesthetic sensibility.

Snickering Ed

Very likely, postmodernistic critics would call such writing, this unaffected, unpretentious kind, at best a good read, but nothing truly earth-shaking, nothing new and trendy. And we would imagine Ed snickering, his thick brows knitted, "as if anything new and trendy is necessarily masterstroke!" He had always reacted against most postmodernistic attempts, especially by the greenhorns for whom postmodernism became an excuse to violate rules they were not aware of in the first place. For these could very easily slip into sloppy writing, a lot of ill-meant dredge and drivel. Discipline, more than anything else. Ed had taught his tributaries well. Good writing for the master, is not mere ostentation, keeping the readers admiring perhaps but at a distance, but aesthetic integrity and good sense.

Some of the writers here ostensibly are ready, by their temperaments and propensities, to explore the realm of the unexpected, the new and freshly experimental, using language that explodes and bursting at the seams, which could be good for Philippine fiction; but they will, assuredly, never stray too far away from the Tiempo fold, they will always beware, "for Ed and they have lovered" (hoping Ed, wherever he is, does not flinch from this Villa quote).

Certainly, thanks to the Tiempos, the Dumaguete workshops and other workshops, the rest of our younger writers who have truly learned from them seriously, will never go overboard in terms of taking liberties with language and craft. And thanks to the Formalism of the Anglo-American variety, the New Criticism School, which the couple and other writer-academicians propagated, literary text will always be considered sacred and authentic site of meaning. It may be considered moribund by some critics, but to its credit, it has certainly influenced a lot of young writers and readers to become more serious than they otherwise would have been.

"Tribute" pays tribute to this literary credo as well.

Book of Pinoy gay quotes to be launched

"BONGGA ka 'Day! Pinoy Gay Quotes to Live By," published by Milflores Publishing, is going to be launched on June 26, 9 p.m., at Penguin Bar, Remedios Circle, Malate, Manila.

Compiled by Ronald Baytan, Ralph Semino Galan and J. Neil Garcia, "Bongga ka 'Day" gathers precious nuggets of wisdom, the pithy sayings and memorable lines mouthed by people—gay and non-gay—who matter: Nora Aunor, Nick Joaquin, Jun Encarnacion, Francisco Balagtas, Jose Rizal, Lino Brocka, Zeneida Amador, Michael Tan, Giovanni Calvo, Tony Perez, Nick de Ocampo, Rita Gomez, among others.

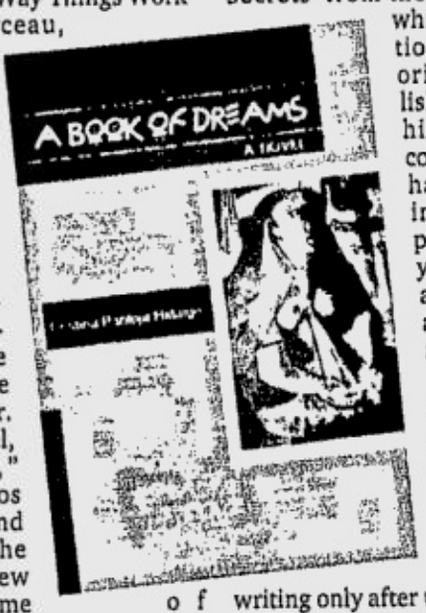
The book serves as a "survival kit" for embattled gays who shall henceforth never again be tongue-tied by ignorant or pesky questions about their sexuality.

The perfect gift for the LGBT community, "Bongga ka 'Day" is a must-buy book.

There will be free food and drinks. The event will feature performances by noted stage actors, including Peter Serrano and Nonon Carandang.

Three new books from UP Press

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Press announces that the following new books are now available to buyers: "A Book of Dreams" by Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, "The Way Things Work" by Scott Garceau, and "Paghuhunos" by Ellen Sicat.



"A Book of Dreams" is the second novel by Hidalgo, prize-winning fictionist and essayist, and director of the U.P. Creative Writing Center. Her first novel, "Recuerdo," won the Carlos Palanca Grand Prize for the novel. This new novel uses some of the techniques of postmodern pastiche, but deals with the traditional theme of the quest, the search, and is firmly grounded in Philippine realities. Hidalgo has published more than 14 books.

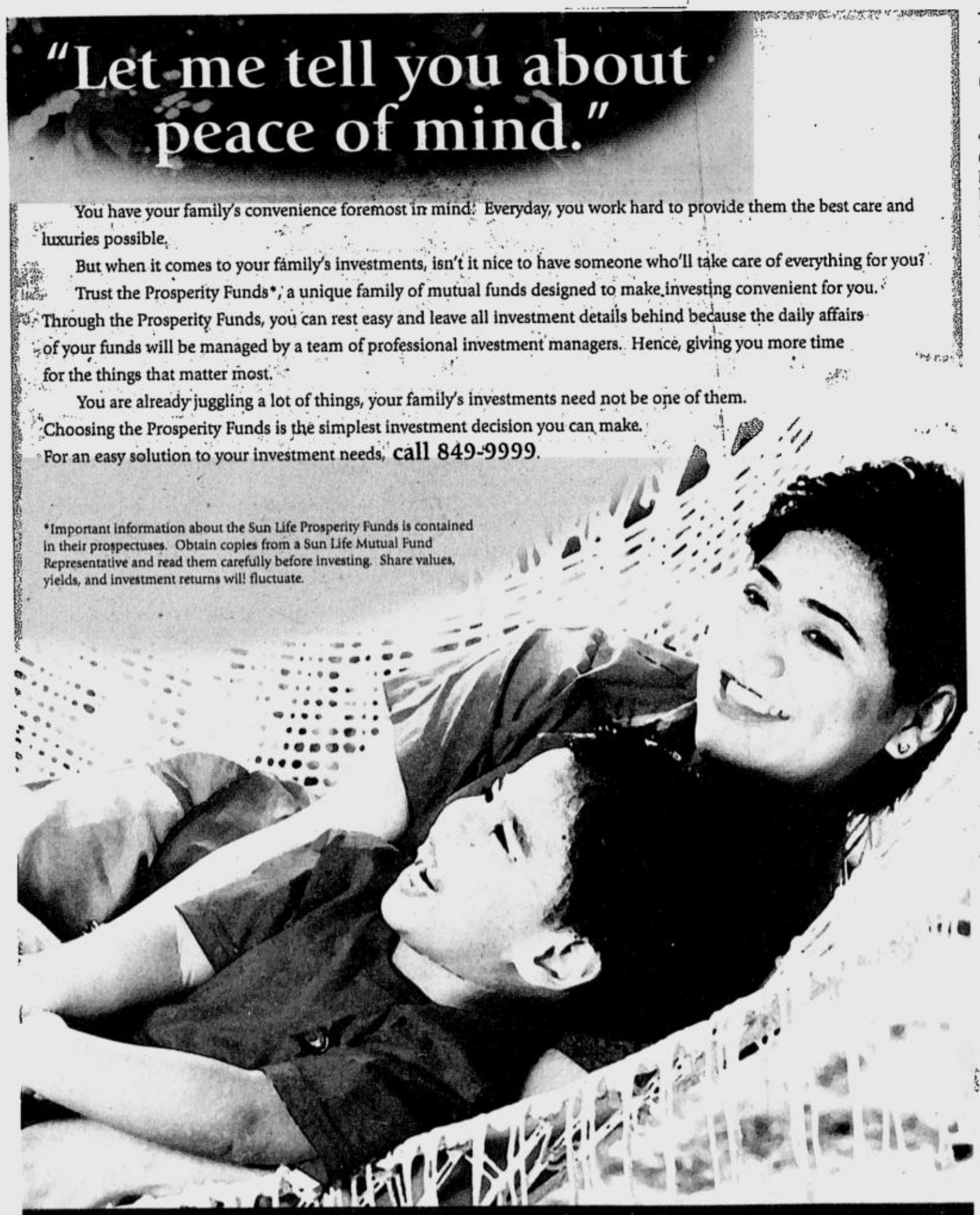
"The Way Things Work" is Scott Garceau's first short story collection. Butch Dalisay, himself a winner of the Carlos Palanca Hall of Fame Award, describes the book as "a superbly crafted and insightful collection". Garceau has published two other books, "The X-Pat Files" and "Kano-nization: More Secrets from the X-Pat Files," which are collections of essays, originally published as part of his newspaper column. Garceau has been living in the Philippines for many years, and has an M.A. in Creative Writing from UP.

"Paghuhunos" is Ellen Sicat's first published book. An accountant by profession, she began writing only after the death of her husband, the writer Rogelio Sicat in 1997. Since then, her stories and poems have been published in national journals and magazines.

The books are available at Popular Bookstore, Solidaridad Bookstore and National Bookstore. Hidalgo's book is also available at Powerbooks.

My Special Valentine releases new series of romantic novels

MY SPECIAL Valentine (MSV) continues its series of romantic novels that has captured the hearts of generations of Filipino readers.

This week, Bookware Publishing Corporation is releasing 12 new MSV pocketbook titles: "Revenge of the Heart," "Babymaker," "Bakit Ikaw," "The Enchantress," "Bihag ng Pagibig," "Mine Forever," "Masquerade," "Kailan Isusugal ang Puso," "Meant to Love You," "Falling in Love Again," "We Belong Together" and "A Promise to Keep."

Meanwhile, Bookware says that the coupons from its previous promo are qualified as entries to the ongoing "Nokia 8310 Raffle Promo." For inquiries, call Dottie Pineda at tel. 631-7811.